

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

December 20. 1967

Present: Mr. Nelson, presiding; Dr. Smith; Rev. Streufert; Mr. Madow; Mr, Knack

Excused: Mrs. Nethery

Since there have been some changes in Program Committee membership the following changes in assignment for liaison with other institution committees were made:

Girl Scouting	-	Mr. Madow
Canteen	-	Rev. Streufert
Special Events	-	Mr. Knack
Humane Practices	-	Mrs. Kethery

There will be no liaison for the library Committee as Mr. Knack will bring to the Committee matters pertaining to the library as necessary.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. The last sentence on the first page should be changed to read "Dr. Smith stated that a doctor's order is not needed if the team makes the order for transfer within the unit."

Using the minutes of the last meeting as an agenda the committee continued the discussion of the use of seclusion and discipline. Mr. Nelson asked if we have a statement of policies on seclusion. The only one we have is the proposed one from Skinner now; the Committee feels we should prepare a statement of policies. Work will begin on this at the next meeting after the State Humane Practices Committee has met. They plan to have a discussion of seclusion and may draw up a statement on policies.

The matter of when it is appropriate and who will decide to transfer patients to other resources, such as mental hospitals was discussed. It is not clear cut at this time what the procedures and channels are. Mr. Nelson stated that work has been done on writing up policies and procedures for discharge planning and he thought this could be done for transfer planning also. Mr. Nelson will draw up a rough draft on transfer planning and bring it to the Committee for discussion next month. The statement will cover transfers to both mentally ill and mentally retarded hospitals if possible.


Regarding the uses of the hospital for seclusion, this will be taken up when the preparation of the statement of policies on seclusion is discussed.

Reports were received regarding the use of seclusion and discipline in Center and Green Acres Units which were not heard last meeting.

Center

Mr. Knack reported on seclusion in Center. Medical restraints are ordered by the doctor and discussed with the director..

Seclusion is used only on a first aid basis as a last resort after the team has made the decision. When it is used, residents are in seclusion usually overnight and in rare cases three days at the most. There are seclusion rooms in Laurel and Mohawk. They also have rooms in Pine available for Osage boys.

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Restrictions are made by the team when they are needed. There seems to be no evidence of dehumanization in the use of discipline.

Mrs. Gates has indicated the need for more activities, programs and individual counseling, especially for Mohawk. There is some feeling on the part of employees that they have very limited recourse when residents are verbally and physically abusive to them. The team is working on this both with the residents and the technicians.

Green Acres

Mr. Nelson gave a brief report on Green Acres. The use of the medical safety devices are essentially the same as Center.

There are two different types of seclusion; one is for medical reasons and one for behavioral reasons. Green Acres rarely uses seclusion but they feel they need rooms where the patients can get away from the group. There are rooms in Maple and Cedar but they have no rooms in Birch, They would like to have the capacity in Birch rated at 96 so the four private rooms can be used for ill residents or for seclusion or for quiet rooms as needed. Mr. Nelson stated there is also concern about the use of chemical restraints. Green Acres feels that because of overcrowding and limited staff they are often forced into using chemical restraints more than they would like. They feel this can be dehumanizing. Mr. Madow stated that these medications should be taken away from the patients every so often to see how they react and if they still need it*

Green Acres is trying to get at the reasons why certain behavior of patients is occurring and what meaningful action can be taken to best help the patient. If more is learned why, more can be done to prevent disturbing and destructive behavior. The attitude of the Green Acres staff is quite good, and there is no evidence that corrective measures have been punitive.

Mr. Nelson also reported on two other matters relating to Green Acres. They are having Maple boys go to Cedar and Cedar girls go to Maple to eat with each other. This is improving the patients' manners greatly and is a very successful venture which other units should be encouraged to try.

Green Acres has asked to have the day rooms in Linden divided. This will be discussed in the future,

The next meeting of the Program Committee is tentatively set for Wednesday, January 31. The State humane Practices Committee meets January 22 and it is hoped that the minutes of that meeting will be available for discussion at the Program Committee meeting.

Recorder,

Marilyn Meese

cc: Dr. Engberg
Mr. Krafve
Unit Directors