

MINUTES OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

October 1, 1969

Present: Dr, H. Bruhl, Chairman, Mr. A, Madow, Mr., D. Knack, Mr. D. Nelson,  
Mr. M. Krafve, Mr. W. Underhill.

Guest: Dr. Travis Thompson

Absent: Dr. R. Johnson, Mr. E. Errickson, Dr. W. Fogerson

Subject: Research Proposal by Linda S. McConahey and Travis Thompson, Ph.D.

Title: The Effects of Behavior Modifications and Drug Therapy and Their  
Interaction in a Population of Mentally Retarded Women.

All members present were acquainted with the proposal. The following questions were raised and clarified:

- 1, The University of Minnesota will be financially responsible for one full-time person who will observe the patients and record the findings,
2. The medication chlorpromazine (thorazine) and the placebos will be furnished by the University,
3. Nine patients on the South Ward of Poppy who are on anticonvulsive medication, will be included in the behavior modification program, but not in the drug program, They will be kept on their anticonvulsive medication.
4. Fifteen of the 25 patients in the study are on Thorazine and Mellaril at present. All medications will be discontinued for one month in order to obtain a baseline.
5. Mr. Madow inquired if the scheme of the double blind study will be identical for the entire group. Doctor Thompson explained that the scheme for 50 % of the patients will be: Drug Period - Placebo Period - Drug Period, for the other 50 % of the patients: Placebo Period - Drug Period - Placebo Period,
6. Dr. Bruhl raised the question if a drug free interval of 30 days in which placebo will be administered, is long enough for research purposes, since it is known that the pharmacological effect of tranquilizers carries over for several weeks Dr. Thompson felt that the drug free interval should be kept to a minimum of 30 days, because a longer extension might impose a strain both on patients and on staff. besides behavioral changes might become apparent already after two weeks.
7. Mr. Madow raised the question how "non-identical" activities in the forenoon and in the afternoon could be compared. Doctor Thompson said that they would develop a scale of comparative activities,

8. The next problem discussed was., in how far the population movement planned for the entire institution might interfere with the project, It was decided that in spite of these plans, the study should be started at the earliest possible date because only five of the patients within the research project are scheduled to be moved out of the South Ward of Poppy. They could stay on until the study is finished,
9. The question raised *by* Doctor Fogerson in regard to concomitant laboratory studies was answered in the negative: Laboratory studies will not be undertaken except when indicated.
10. It was stated that chlorpromazine is a well studied and widely used tranquilizer, The dosage used in the study will be in the same range as in usual clinical therapy. The medication of the patients will be under the direction of their unit physician, Dr. A. Mattson. A statement from him that he agrees with the principles of the study will be forthcoming,
- 11, There was general concensus that permission should be obtained from each family for the patient's participation in the study, even though no detrimental side-effects of the administration, nor risks in withholding the medication are anticipated, Administration and discontinuation of medications such as tranquilizers is a routine clinical procedure.
12. Doctor Thompson was advised that his proposal should be submitted in 3even copies to the Medical Policy Committee at the State Office. The applications should be made out for "clearance only". The proposed alterations will foe incorporated,
13. The Research Committee endorsed Doctor Thonpson's Research Proposal unanimously.

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