

MEMORANDUM

April 11, 1970

To: Eric Errickson, Program Coordinator
Roger Johnson, M.D., Medical Director
Harold Gillespie, Hospital Administrator

From: Leonard T. Fielding, M.D., Psychiatric Consultant

Subject: Industrial Therapy Token Economy Pilot Program; Report on
Activities from Implementation in January, 1970 to April 1, 1970

The initiation of the token economy for working residents in the Cedar kitchen area has been successful. There have been, of course, minor logistic problems from time to time. Mr. Welsandt, Mrs. Wangsness, Mrs. Seimers, and Mrs. Meier, the Industrial Therapy Work Supervisor have ironed out the difficulties as they arose.

In an effort to avoid the residents not wanting to attend school, the school has now been included in the token economy program. Although the initial methodology used resulted in bringing an aversive interaction back to the work area from school, this has been altered by using the "school attendance chit", a copy of which you have all previously received.

There have been individual residents who have shown marked progress since this method began. Several will be eligible for automatic monthly rate increases beginning May, 1970. Mr. Welsandt is monitoring these performance characteristics closely and "hard" data will be forthcoming shortly.

We now have requests from Mr. Farnsworth in Pine and from Mrs. Seimers at Cedar to allow expansion of the program so that it will include working residents in the ward areas. Mr. Farnsworth's request is of a different nature as it is a request for building-wide implementation. Mr. Welsandt will be calling a meeting of staff new to the program so that we can explain it to them. It will involve a number of other living units, as well as Industrial Therapy Work Supervisors.

Mrs. Meier, the Cedar kitchen area Industrial Therapy Work Supervisor has noted continued improvement in at least two of the residents working in that area. She wants to recommend them for consideration by the Discharge Staffing Committee. I would suggest that Mr. Errickson contact her and ex-

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plore the implications of her request. If patients are going to be discharged from the hospital because of improved work and social behavior at the work site, I do hope that it will not be "blamed" on the token economy. Certainly, we want the residents to "improve" but not so much so that the cost is that of losing competent resident help. [You will notice the tongue-in-cheek tone.]

Mrs. Meier has certainly done a very fine job and her efforts and close attention to suggestions and directions has made it possible to consider the extension of the Industrial Therapy token economy.

LTF/em

cc: Mr. Roundy Welsandt
Mrs. Seimers
Mrs. Wangsness
Mrs. Meier (Cedar kitchen)
Mr. Farnsworth