

54-REM-RSG

Standard form

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION
MENTAL HOSPITAL SERVICE

Smith, Kline and French Foundation Remotivation Project
Mailing Address: Box 7929, Philadelphia 1, Pa.

June 13, 1958

Mr. Morris Hursh
Commissioner of Welfare
State Dept. of Public Welfare
117 University Avenue
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hursh:

It is now possible for a few hospitals to avail themselves of a special program for their psychiatric aides in the recently developed technique of group social intercourse, which has become known as REMOTIVATION.

Thanks to a grant from the Smith Kline & French Foundation, training teams can be sent to key hospitals to teach the technique to selected aides, and thus enable them to act as training centers for other hospitals in the area.

Basically this simple technique serves two purposes - to remotivate the patient to take an interest in simple, objective aspects of the ordinary world and to remotivate the aide himself to know his patients as individuals, thus increasing his value as an aide by creating in him a genuine ability to form human relationships with the patients on his wards.

Inquiries have been received from many hospitals including one from Hastings State Hospital in Hastings Minnesota: from Dr. William F. Sheeley, Acting Superintendent, Department of Public Welfare. Because the Advisory Committee feels that the proper channel of communication for the establishment of such a program should be the Commissioner of Mental Health, or his equivalent, I am writing directly to you.

We would like to send out a single Remotivation Training Team to as many areas as possible, but because of limited funds and personnel, the Committee is now trying to work out some plan whereby teams may be sent first to those hospitals whose needs and interest is the greatest, and which would best be able to serve as sort of "training centers" for other hospitals in the area.

J. Hursh
Bureau of Welfare
St. Paul, Minnesota

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June 13, 1958

Please let me know whether you would like to have such a program established in your state. If so, which of your hospitals would make the best "training center" for other hospitals in the state.

Each Training Team will consist of a nurse and an aide from the Philadelphia State Hospital, who are experienced in the technique. The primary role of the nurse will be to discuss the structure of the program with your physicians and nurses, and to assist in its establishment. The aide will be engaged in giving actual instruction in the technique to the aides in the hospital by means of a film and a training manual. It is estimated that the course planned will take about 30 hours over a period of some three weeks.

In order to stretch the funds and personnel available, it has been suggested that aides from other hospitals in the state might be invited to participate in each training course, and it might be that state funds can be found to defray the traveling expenses and salaries of these people during their training period.

Please let me hear from you as early as possible, because the Advisory Committee would like to begin scheduling the visits of the training teams.

Yours sincerely,

Robert S. Garber, M.D.
Chairman, Advisory Committee

RSG:f

June 23, 1958

Robert S. Garber, M.D.
Chairman, Advisory Committee
American Psychiatric Ass'n.
Mental Hospital Service
Box 7929
Philadelphia 1, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Garber:

Thank you for your letter of June 13 indicating the interests of the American Psychiatric Association Mental Hospital Service in furnishing a team to give instruction on the "remotivation" technique in one of Minnesota's mental hospitals.

We would be quite interested in having a team come to one of our hospitals for this purpose with the thought that we would have some nurses and aides from our other hospitals participate. I would like to discuss with the superintendents themselves the selection of the hospital in which the training might be offered. An opportunity to do this at first-hand will be available July 11 at the next meeting of our Hospital Superintendents. Following that date we will let you know at which hospital we would like to have this training program but it would certainly be feasible for you to go forward with plans at this time for such a session in one of our hospitals. The program should not be undertaken however before September since most of our hospitals have a rather substantial number of students there during the summer and we would like to complete that training program prior to the time that we take on another. Therefore, if it is feasible for you to plan for a training session on "remotivation" in Minnesota sometime in September we would be very pleased to collaborate with you. I will ask Dr. Cameron, our Medical Director, to correspond with you shortly after July 11 relative to the location of such a meeting. He would then be able to work out with you the final details of the program if Minnesota is selected as one of the places to which you would like to send a team.

Sincerely yours,

Morris Hursh
Commissioner

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