

TO: Mrs. M. Gates, Program Director

FROM: Dr. Zellar, Consulting Psychiatrist

DATE: May 12, 1969

This morning free time was spent observing the interaction on Osage East.,

First, I would like to mention that the staff available were very co-operative and agreeable, although quite insufficient. It is far too much to expect them to set up a program with such irregular and limited help. If we are going to set up a program in Osage, we must have some consistency in our staff to activate our group. At the present time, the residents in Osage East are not interacting with each other, they try to amuse themselves, occasionally getting into fights and as the day goes by, it is likely that this type of activity increases in intensity and quality.

The physical facilities are quite inadequate for activities. The rooms are far too big and are not conducive to activating the clients. There are no small activity areas where small groups can interact. Therefore, we need rooms for groups of 7 or 8 children where they can be provided with working materials. My recommendation would be that we divide the present population into small groups among the staff; Technicians, Nurses, Recreation, O.T., Social Workers, etc. It is necessary that we gain some control over the behavior of our patients. At first we should have consistent, stereo-typed activities until they learn to control their behavior. When this is achieved, we can move into more sophisticated group activities. Games can be one of the tools by which we can motivate and reinforce the children.

In order to control the acting-out behavior, we should have some outlet for their hostile behavior. Tackling dummies and punching bags could be given to the wards for the children to use. Other equipment should be introduced to the Wards. Tables, chairs, and games should be made available to them for proper interaction. Introduction to pets could be done as well. Division should be made between the sleeping area and the activity areas. This could be done with furniture and other devices.

In the future we can discuss this with more detail.

Three areas of consideration are to provide individual, small group, and large group activities.