

Regional Affairs

Teamwork, Family Cut Mental Treatment Time

By MARGARET MILLER
Teamwork and a new kind of hospitalization are making a difference for many patients in Northville State Hospital. The difference is spelled out in shorter hospitalization—often only day visits—and better understanding of his mental illness by himself and those close to him.

Involved are patients who live in Plymouth, Livonia, Northville and Redford Townships and are in the NSH Fieldbrook Unit. In recent months, two innovations on the part of the Fieldbrook staff have made treatment more effective.

FIRST, the original diagnosis and evaluation brings in the patient and key members of his family as well as the entire hospital team that will be treating him.

That has great advantages over the system of doctor

meeting patient and then reporting to the family, said Dr. Abdul G. Riaz, Fieldbrook Unit director. "We can evaluate how different members of the family react to the patient and see everything in action. Sometimes it turns out that other members of the family are in need of treatment."

And second, the patient spends very few nights in the hospital, often none at all. Instead of months of hospitalization, there may be an initial stay of six or seven days and then care in the day hospital.

COOPERATION is the key word in the fact that both new steps work for the patient.

"In the original evaluation," said Dr. Riaz, "we put the focus not just on one troubled individual but on a whole living situation in reference to that individual."

"Sometimes," pointed out Rita Gutowski, social worker on the NSH Fieldbrook team, "others besides family members are brought in—neighbors, lawyer, probation officer, any who touch the patient's life in a significant way."

"When we finish conferring," Dr. Riaz went on, "we work out a course of treatment."

"Everybody is willing to follow it if it isn't rammed down their throats. And we find we can pursue the treatment with little interference, because everybody understands."

IN MANY cases, Dr. Riaz said, the patient is told he needs no hospitalization but can go directly on to the day hospital care. That's good therapy in itself, he added. Therapy in the day hospital involved individual consultation, group sessions, medication, and activities. Different members of the hospital team are in charge of the different areas.

"We used to have group sessions Mondays and Thursdays," Dr. Riaz reported. "Now it's Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning and Wednesday evening." Most groups have about eight participants.

RESPONSIBILITY and flexibility are key words in the treatment administered through the day hospital.

The patient himself learns to take responsibility for getting himself here and for making plans for lunch," Dr. Riaz said. "He also is given the responsibility for his own medication—we just give him the medicine in packets and instructions on when to take it."

He also said the program began as a loose-ended one

and actually is still being structured. "More changes are coming," said Dr. Riaz. "We're finding some patients need only part time treatment and can continue in their jobs. This is an important part of the treatment in this society where holding a job is a proof of worth."

"We hope soon to add an evening hospital, which would provide treatment for those employed all day."

AS A DRAMATIC example of change, the different treatment form can make, Dr. Riaz mentioned a young man who had been in another hospital for years. "He is epileptic and retarded," the doctor said, "and his family wanted to transfer him here because they live in this area. But after only seven weeks here, we felt he was ready for day care. The family was concerned then because they were worried about possibilities like an epileptic seizure."

"But working with both the patient and the family, we have been able to make excellent progress on the day hospital system. We feel he should soon be ready for some sort of employment training so he can hold a job."

"The system," he said, "is most workable in the Fieldbrook unit because committing to the hospital is easy. It has the full endorsement of the staff."

"We must work harder," he said, "because when a problem develops, we can't put it off until the next day. We know the patient will be going home that night, so we must find a solution right then."

"We feel that intensive treatment and family support that have been part of this program are the best we've yet been able to offer the mentally ill."



THIS TEAM of Northville State Hospital staff members work together to evaluate treatment programs for new patients in the Fieldbrook Unit. Seated at the left is Dr. Abdul G. Riaz, unit director. The women seated are (from left) secretaries Pat Reed and Vicki Rogissart;

social worker Rita Gutowski; Judy Coates, nurse; Jean Cava, social worker and Bessie Herring, nursing. Standing behind them are (from left), Dr. Mohammed Shalam, Ervin Johnson, activities planner, and Ira Pack, nursing. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Jail Renovation Committee Named

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners has formed a special committee to maintain liaison between the board, the Sheriff's department and the courts system, while litigation is under way regarding the county jail.

Chairman of the new seven-member committee is Joseph F. Young, of Detroit; D-District 4.

Among members are Richard Manning (D-Redford) and John McCann (D-Livonia). "Our chief responsibility will be to watch over progress of the jail renovation program," said Young. "We will keep the full board advised at all times, and try to

do everything possible to insure that the renovation program is accomplished as quickly as possible," he added.

The committee will also sit through court proceedings and confer with the three-judge panel which ordered the jail renovated, he said.

Judges Victor J. Baum, Richard M. Maher and John D. O'Hair ordered the improvements following a civil suit filed in behalf of jail inmates.

Members of the committee were appointed by Board Chairman Robert E. Fitz-Patrick.

CP Drops Vandalism Case; Police Protest

LIVONIA Charges of malicious destruction of property lodged against a Consumers Power Co. employee stemming from strike violence have been dropped by the company, say Livonia police who are "disappointed" with the company's action.

The charges against Harold Underwood, 40, of 200 South Crown, Westland, were dropped by the company last week. Underwood, who is still an employee of the company, has "received discipline" directly by the company, a Consumers Power Co. spokesman told the Observer. During the three-month

strike of the gas utility company, Consumers Power took out full page ads in Observer Newspapers and other papers asking the public to help the company stop destruction of company property by striking employees. Consumers also offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone giving information leading to the arrest and conviction of any company employee causing damage or using violence during the strike.

THE STRIKE, which began May 11, was marred by several incidents of violence and heated bargaining

although only one incident of violence was reported locally. The lighted sign and 16 gas lights at the Consumer Power Co. area headquarters, 11801 Farmington Rd., Livonia, were damaged in a July 17 incident attributed to hostile strikers by Consumer officials and police.

Underwood's arrest followed that incident. According to police, a woman who lived in the Consumer plant area called that night to report that two men carrying picket signs were vandalizing the utility company's property.

SGT. RUSSELL E. McQuaid, who responded to that report and followed up the police department's investigation of the incident, said that police would like to have continued with prosecution and were "disappointed" with the company's move to dismiss the charges against Underwood.

McQuaid and Lt. William R. Collins said they would press the company to pay the \$1,000 reward to the Livonia woman who reported the incident and upon whose testimony the warrant was issued for Underwood's arrest. Police declined to identify the woman.

A Consumers Power Co. spokesman said the company would probably follow through with the reward.

Santa's Arrival Nov. 20

Santa Claus and his welcoming parade will arrive Nov. 20 at Wonderland Center, Plymouth and Middle Belt.

The parade will contain the 80-piece Franklin High School marching band, under the direction of Pamela Haltom. And 40 majorettes from the Livonia-Redford Dad's Club of St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church will act as the be on honor guard.

Other personalities will include Ricky the Clown and CKLW-TV's Mr. Woodson the Magician.

From Nov. 20 to Christmas, Santa Claus will be located on the west end of the mall every day.

Another attraction at Wonderland will be the display of partridges on a pear tree and a pair of fallow deer. These exhibits will be located at the west end of the mall, and like Santa will be open daily during regular center hours.

C'ville Band To Present Free Concert

The Clarenceville Junior High School Band, under the direction of Ted Mallares, will present a concert this evening (Nov. 17) at 7:30 in the L.E. Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middle Belt, Livonia.

Francesco Di Biasi will be guest soloist. Playing an unusual gold-plated trumpet from Germany, he will be heard in the solo "The Bugler" by Edwin Franko Goldman. Di Biasi was for many years a member of the trumpet section of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Also on the program will be works by Karl King, Meredith Willson, Jaime Texidor, Lennon and McCartney, Frank Erickson and Clare Grundeman. The concert is free and open to the public.

By the way, whatever happened to your idea about saving for a rainy day?

Well, we can help you make it happen. Just think. For a minimum deposit of only \$100, you can open a pass-book savings account with us that pays a cool 5% interest—compounded continuously. All you have to do is bring your current passbook, or \$100 to any one of our 7 branch offices. We'll take care of the rest. And when you do, we'll give you an opportunity to buy the latest ladies' bubble-top umbrella for only \$3.95—or, an automatic, windproof, men's umbrella for only \$2.95. So open your rainy-day savings account today, and throw away your old umbrella. After all, the idea of saving money isn't all wet.

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