



WILLIAM S. HALL, M.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

S. C. MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
C. M. TUCKER, JR., CHAIRMAN
E. EDWARD WEHMAN, JR.
JOHN M. FEWELL, M.D.
G. WERBER BRYAN
W. G. EDWARDS, SR.
W. P. BECKMAN, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH

July 17, 1959

Mr. S. J. Ulmer, Jr., Director
Hospital Construction Section
Division of Administration
State Board of Health
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Ulmer:

C On behalf of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, as well as all patients of the South Carolina State Hospital, the writer wishes to express sincere appreciation for the consideration the Council has given the hospital on several projects that are now in existence and providing vital service for mentally ill citizens from every county in South Carolina. The most recent facility, the James F. Byrnes Clinical Center, has already become a very important cog in our huge organization.

P In the event additional funds become available for the construction of Mental Hospital Facilities under Public Law 725, The Hospital Survey and Construction Act, as amended, the South Carolina State Hospital would like to request Federal assistance for a number of other projects.

Y Since 1952, many additional facilities have been constructed both at the Columbia and State Park Divisions of our hospital. Most of these structures, but not all of them, were buildings where Federal assistance would not have been available. Despite this extensive construction program, the South Carolina State Hospital remains grossly overcrowded and still has many needs in order to properly care for, and render treatment to, the 3250 patients in each of its two divisions (total patient population 6522).

At the present time, the two most urgent needs are for a new Central Kitchen-Congregate Dining Room at the State Park Division and a new Laundry with sufficient capacity to serve both divisions of the hospital.

The present Central Kitchen and Congregate Dining Room at the State Park Division is totally inadequate in space and equipment. When constructed, the size of the facility was never intended to provide space to house a central kitchen for the entire State Park Division. The floor space is grossly inadequate for placing the necessary equipment and day to day storage is completely lacking. Boxes, cartons and other containers holding food items have to be stacked on the floor in close proximity to bake ovens and other large pieces of equipment.

Mr. S. J. Elmer, Jr., Director
Page 2
July 17, 1939

Refrigeration facilities consist of two walk-in refrigerators which are, of course, grossly inadequate for health purposes.

Kitchen equipment now in operation consists largely of used items purchased as such or obtained as Federal government surplus.

The existing Congregate Dining Room is in need of complete renovation and is so small in size that two feedings are required for each meal in order to accommodate female patients only. This, of course, creates many complications in the feeding operation because feeding hours are such that it is difficult to feed in shifts and still serve subsequent meals at the appointed time. Condition of the concrete floor in this particular structure is such that acceptable sanitation cannot possibly be maintained.

Hardly any other situation in the hospital, including the need for a laundry, can be termed more critical. It should be borne in mind that food is prepared in this kitchen not only for hospital patients but also for trainees of Finland, A State Training School and Hospital, which together total 3600 persons. Further increases in the patient and trainee populations of both these institutions will likely raise this figure to 3750 in 1939-40.

Laundry service in the operation of a mental hospital can hardly be too strongly emphasized. Present demands cannot be met at all satisfactorily with existing facilities, one at the Columbia Division and one at State Park. Present buildings are altogether inadequate in floor space and area. Available equipment, even if in good condition generally, would lack the capacity for the increasing volumes of laundry that are required daily.

The two laundries have been kept in operation on the present scale only with surplus, used equipment obtained from the Federal government. Several pieces of major equipment cannot be expected to operate much longer. They have been out of production for such a long period of time that parts cannot now be obtained.

Surveys conducted over the last several years indicate that the total laundry volume has increased 71% over a period of 7 years. Inasmuch as the deplorable and inadequate facilities at the State Park Division are called upon to provide laundry service for State Hospital patients as well as for Finland trainees and, since the population of the latter institution is expected to reach 400 in the next year, an impossible situation may be faced in the near future.

The laundry at the Columbia Division is now operating at capacity and does not meet demands, even though a partial second shift has been added. It is perhaps superfluous to state that the hospital population continues to rise with a resulting increased demand for laundry services.

A laundry management survey is currently being performed by the Victor Kramer Company of New York City in order that essential information can be furnished referable to the advisability of constructing one laundry or two laundries and, if one is to be constructed, the location thereof.

Mr. S. J. Wimer, Jr., Director
July 2, 1959

Page 3

Mr. Henry S. Garrison
President, Commercial National Bank
Columbia, South Carolina
Many other urgent needs exist at the South Carolina State Hospital but mention will not be made of them at this time inasmuch as matching State funds are not available to apply toward additional projects.

The General Assembly has made available a total of \$1,500,000 for construction purposes. With this in mind, it is felt that sufficient State funds are available to match the maximum amount of Federal funds that may become available to apply toward the construction of the two urgently needed facilities described heretofore.

At this time, the South Carolina State Hospital wishes to apply for Federal aid from Hill-Burton Funds in the construction of the aforementioned Central Kitchen-Congregate Dining Room for the State Park Division and Pineland, and Laundry facilities to serve both divisions of the institutions as well as Pineland. It will be appreciated if you will present this matter to the Hospital Advisory Council for its consideration. In the event Hill-Burton Funds are available or become available in the future, we wish to request the most favorable allocation possible.

Please be advised that the undersigned, as well as the Chairman of the South Carolina Mental Health Commission, Mr. C. M. Tucker, Jr., will be glad to appear before the Council to discuss these proposed projects.

Yours very truly,

William S. Ball, M. D.
Superintendent

WSH:ABC

CC: Mr. C. M. Tucker, Jr., Chairman
S. C. Mental Health Commission
Fogeland, S. C.

Dr. W. F. Beckman, State Director Mental Health
Columbia, S. C.

Blind Copies:

Mr. Henry G. Carrison
President, Commercial National Bank
Camden, South Carolina

Business Manager
Comptroller
Administrative Assistant