

the State Board of Review of the National Register of Historic Places voted to recommend that the Babcock Building be placed on the National Register despite our plea that the building's central location on the hospital campus is badly needed for modern facilities. The nomination will be considered by the Department of Interior in October of 1981, making demolition of the building subject to approval by the city Landmarks Commission. The delay and total lack of progress in the construction of replacement buildings as provided for in the Department's Permanent Improvement Plan is a discouragement of major proportions.

OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER

The Office of the S. C. State Commissioner of Mental Health consists of the Commissioner (Dr. William S. Hall), an Administrative Assistant II, and an Executive Secretary.

Dr. Hall has served in this capacity since July 1, 1963. As the chief executive of the department it is his responsibility to administer the policies, rules and regulations established by the S. C. Mental Health Commission. He is appointed by this Commission, which is the governing board of the department and whose members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state senate.

The Commissioner must be a medical doctor licensed in S. C. with approved training and experience in psychiatry. The Commissioner has the power to appoint and, at his discretion, remove all other officers and employees of the department (subject to the approval of the Mental Health Commission).

The Commissioner acts as the immediate supervisor of the Office of Public Affairs and the deputy commissioners who are responsible for the various operations and services of the divisions of the department.

ASSISTANT FOR EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNCIL

During this past year, the Office of General Counsel assumed greater responsibilities in the areas of Legislative affairs and media relations. The addition of one attorney and a legal secretary enabled the office to continue the enforcement of claims and liens for medical care and maintenance rendered to patients. In addition, the office became more involved in the concept of risk management as a means of decreasing potential liability and improving patient care. Significant effort was also made to maximize patient eligibility for Medicaid benefits as a consequence of changes in Federal Regulations.

Additional duties included reviewing all Departmental contracts, providing guidance regarding employee/employer relations, implementing the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, pro-

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The microfilm section has filmed over 600 cartridges of film this year eliminating over 600 cubic feet of hard copy record while creating over 600 cubic feet of additional file space. Several projects began this year and includes filming cancelled checks for the Department's Finance Section, the locator at S. C. State Hospital, which is to be distributed to all facilities of the Department of Mental Health, and over 600 cartridges of old film at S. C. State Hospital containing medical records will be duplicated in order to produce security copies to be stored at the Department of Archives and History. These projects are expected to be completed by September of 1981.

INTERSTATE TRANSFERS

S. C. still maintains a 2 to 1 ratio in transferring patients to other states over receiving patients. In addition, the Interstate Transfer Coordinator has referred a number of patients to other Mental Health and Mental Retardation facilities in S. C.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOSPITAL

Many of the goals established for FY '81 were attained. Primary in achievement was the closing of the Babcock Building to residential use. This required the cooperation and hard work of many staff and contributed to improved safety for hospital residents. Additional accomplishments were the installation and successful reopening of our Radiology Department, the strengthening of our Quality Assurance Program, the development of an effective treatment planning methodology, and the correction of many of our major life safety deficiencies. An accomplishment in which we take special pride is the accreditation of the Laboratory in the Byrnes Clinical Center by the College of American Pathologists. This accreditation is only achieved by laboratories practicing under the highest standards of efficiency and quality control.

There have been accomplishments; however, there were very discouraging setbacks during the fiscal year. Although the JCAH survey conducted in October 1980, reflected great progress, the final result was one-year accreditation rather than the maximum two-year decision. It will be necessary for the hospital to undergo an additional survey in October 1981. The greatest disappointment came as a result of budget cuts which necessitated the reduction in hospital staff of 192 positions. This had a severe impact upon the effective operation of the facility and we have experienced many challenges in attempting to provide accept-