

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT
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discharge and coping with problems encountered outside the hospital.

In conclusion, we have made positive strides in our treatment program. In the future we plan to make alterations in programs that would be compatible with better patient treatment and patients' needs. Our staff-patient ratio has increased in some areas, but we still need to increase staff, particularly in Nursing Service.

UNIT IV

The primary goals for Unit IV as it was previously, was to render better patient care.

A female admission ward, consisting of twenty (20) beds, was established in the unit. This procedure was in continuity with the previously established male admission ward of twenty (20) beds.

The security ward for the hospital, which had previously been in Unit IV was discontinued. This allowed all personnel to concentrate on treatment for Unit IV patients only.

During the period in which buildings were being renovated for the unit, patients had to be placed on wards outside of the unit area. It is anticipated that all Unit IV patients will be returned to the regular wards in Allan and Saunders Buildings by August of 1976.

A program committee was established in the unit so that we might make consistent, coherent plans in establishing treatment programs and also to formulate suggestions on how to improve our current programs.

We have endeavored to continue to have regular visits to the mental health centers and clinics served by the unit and to have staff and clinics come to the hospital for consultation and coordination, usually on a weekly basis. This, however, was curtailed during part of the period of time covered in this report because of budgetary restrictions on travel. There have, however, been several joint workshops with various agencies in the community and, where indicated, staff have visited with various agencies in the community. There has, however, been a change in focus to let the local mental health centers deal directly with the agencies because they are better able to establish communications on a local basis.

The unit has established a community liaison worker assigned for full time boarding home and alternate care placement for our five (5) boarding homes ranging in size from five to fifty (5-50) beds now being used by our unit for placement of patients. There has been approval for Title XX (Title Twenty) funds for use of foster homes in the Horry-Georgetown-Williamsburg area. We have been doing boarding home consultations in all counties served by our unit. We have been working

very closely with COIL Project to provide training for patients in coping with community problems that they will face upon release from the hospital.

The Physicians and In-Service Education has continued to meet bimonthly in the unit. At these meetings the major emphasis is on current journal articles or current psychiatric educational tapes.

Social Service in Unit IV has established meetings every other week which are designed as in-service training sessions for social services. Social Service in Unit IV has continued to serve as a field instruction site for the training of graduate social workers attending the University of South Carolina College of Social Work.

Nursing Service employees have been involved in in-service classes to develop better nursing skills and documentation. Some have completed in-service courses in pharmacology. They have attended classes offered by the In-Service Staff Development. They are being taught a course on documentation and have been taught to write detailed discharge summaries. Nurses have been involved in workshops, classes and special programs in continuing education. The chief psychologist in Unit IV has been meeting weekly, individually, with clinical counselors in a training program.

A reduction of census in the unit during the fiscal year 1975-76 was accomplished in the male patient population. This population went from one hundred ninety-two (192) male patients to one hundred sixty-eight (168) male patients. Despite attempts to make reductions in the population of female patients, there was an increase from one hundred thirty-two (132) female patients to one hundred fifty (150) patients.

The ceilings have been lowered and better lighting fixtures established in Saunders and Allan Buildings. Central air-conditioning and heating is being installed. A wheelchair ramp was added to the front of each building. The outside trim of both buildings has been repainted in selected color schemes. Activity Therapy has acquired new and much needed equipment for the patients. Among the equipment which was obtained were two (2) pianos.

The lobbies of both buildings were enlarged and improved in appearance. A new garden was established in the rear of the Allan Building by and for the Unit IV patients.

A weekly physicians' and nurses' meeting was established. There was an addition of another meeting per month of all unit personnel so there are now two meetings per month. Chief of Psychology for the unit meets each week, individually, with his staff.

We presently have seven psychology personnel, five physicians, eight social workers, one chaplain, three vocational rehabilitation counselors