

newsletter



Community Council of the Atlanta Area Inc.

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MACHEALTH NOMINATING AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEES

Two very important committees were selected at the October meeting of MACHealth by nomination and vote of the membership. The Nominating Committee will propose a slate of officers for the first Annual Meeting and election in January. The work of those officers will, to a great extent, determine the success of MACHealth in its first full year. Another duty of the Nominating Committee will be that of selecting organizations who will name members to MACHealth in subsequent years. This will be done by collecting and evaluating a list of eligible groups in categories to be represented. A fair rotation and equal representation will be achieved in this way.

The Personnel Committee will select and recommend to the Council a candidate for Director of the Agency. It will also set personnel policies for the MACHealth staff.

Members newly elected are:

Nominating Committee

Hon. L. Howard Atherton, Mayor of Marietta. He is also President, Georgia Municipal Association, member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Chairman of Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Local Governments. He has been a tireless supporter of MACHealth since its early inception.

Mr. A. B. Padgett, Chairman Pro Tem of MACHealth. A Trust Officer of the Trust Company of Georgia, Mr. Padgett is on the Executive Board of the Community Council and was Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Health Planning Project.

Dr. Robert E. Wells, Chairman of the Board, Fulton County Medical Society. He is an orthopedic surgeon, and directed the Joint Health Professionals Committee for Comprehensive Health Planning, as well as participating on the Executive Committee of the early Steering Committee.

The Rev. Ervin B. Broughton, member of the Governing Board, Gwinnett County E.O.A. A retired Baptist minister, Rev. Broughton still pastors two churches, is a Mason and President of his Lodge, and works in his community for improved social conditions. He is a lifelong resident of Lawrenceville.

Personnel Committee

Hon. Walter M. Mitchell, Chairman, Fulton County Board of Commissioners and Executive Committee member of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Drew R. Fuller, Chairman, Health and Health Services Committee, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. He was also on the Steering Committee's Executive Committee and has devoted much time and effort to the organization and success of MACHealth.

Mr. J. William Pinkston, Jr., Administrator, Grady Hospital. He has given many hours in service to the concept of Comprehensive Health Planning and in furthering its support.

Mrs. Loretta Barnes, Secretary Pro Tem of MACHealth. Her yeoman service to the Council has been evident from the start, and is unselfishly given in addition to her work for the Interdenominational Theological Seminary and as a busy mother.

Mr. Paul Cadenhead, lawyer in private practice, president-elect, Atlanta Bar Association, past president of both Atlanta Mental Health Association and Georgia Association for Mental Health.

MRS. ELIZABETH C. MOONEY

Vivacious Mrs. Elizabeth C. Mooney is a member of MACHealth. She was appointed to the MACHealth Board by Economic Opportunity Atlanta to represent the poor and near-poor. She resides in the Antoine Graves Homes, is secretary of the local Citizens Neighborhood Advisory Council (CNAC), and a member of the Atlanta EOA Health Committee.



Despite the absence of her larynx, she manages to speak quite audibly and eloquently whether she is conversing with Senator Russell in Washington about the welfare freeze or passing the time of day with someone on the street in Atlanta.

Mrs. Mooney, a retired nurse, has stood the test of survival for 64 years and is still going strong. She has battled a heart condition, cancer, diabetes and low blood pressure; she triumphs almost weekly over debilitating conditions of a more ephemeral nature such as eye trouble and toe infections.

Mrs. Mooney's hobby is working with people. She is always there, giving of herself; sometimes in the form of a flower arrangement which she has designed with her own hands, at other times, simply uttering comforting words from the heart.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Mooney—humanitarian, friend of Grady Memorial Hospital, valuable member of MACHealth.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1969 EFFORTS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks the recent contribution of the Clayton County Commission of \$2280 toward the current year's operations of the Comprehensive Health Planning Project. We are also pleased to report that the Gwinnett County Commission has appropriated \$1748 for the same purpose. These amounts, added to previous receipts from Fulton, DeKalb, and Douglas counties, plus gifts from private sources, have made possible the work of the project to date. Such local funds have served to "match" equal dollar amounts from the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

MENTAL HEALTH HOUSE BILL NO. 1

Frank Adams Smith

In 1958, the General Assembly made a major revision in the law relating to hospitalizing the mentally ill, according to recommendations of the Joint Senate-House Mental Health Committee, chaired by Peyton Hawes.

Other minor revisions were made in 1960 and 1964. In 1969, another major revision, House Bill 1, was enacted.

In the 1969 Act, the procedure for Voluntary Admission and the judicial procedures for Involuntary Admission are substantially the same as in the current law.

While the protection of "rights of the patient" was a predominant characteristic of the 1958 Act and of succeeding Acts, the 1969 Law extends and broadens this protection.

The 1969 Act provides for emergency care up to 24 hours, and for evaluation and intensive treatment up to 5 days; and limits further hospitalization to an initial six months. Additional hospitalization can be warranted only by thorough examination

of the patient indicating such need and by the authorization of the Court of Ordinary. The patient, his attorney, guardian or representatives, if they desire, can request a hearing.

Emergency care, evaluation and treatment for a period of 5 days, and limitation of hospitalization, have not been provided in any prior law. Emergency care and evaluation plus short-term intensive treatment should prevent at least 50% of the patients now going to Central State Hospital from having to go there.

The limitation to six months of the initial order for hospitalization forevermore bans the "putting away for life" of any mentally ill person.

The philosophy of the 1969 law, simply stated, is that the mentally ill are in fact "ill" and should be treated as sick people and should have immediate and intensive care and treatment. This philosophy is identical with the philosophy of comprehensive mental health services enunciated by Congress in 1963.

The metropolitan Atlanta area is fortunate in having a Regional Hospital which will be both an Emergency Facility and an Evaluation Facility. Also Grady Memorial Hospital is now performing the functions of an Emergency and Evaluation Facility.

The governing authority of each county can choose between the "medical procedure," which is outlined in the new law, and the "judicial procedure" which is essentially the same as in the current law. No formal action is necessary for a county to operate under the "medical procedure" of H.B. 1, but formal resolution by the governing authority is necessary to function under the "judicial procedure." Such action can be taken only once a year.

In every step of the "medical procedure," the patient and representatives are notified of his right to an attorney, which the county must provide, if the patient is unable to pay for such services. The patient, his representatives and attorney are notified of patient's right to judicial intervention at any time they think his rights are abrogated.

The sections of the law relating to "rights of patient" became effective June 1, 1969. The remainder of the law becomes effective January 1, 1970.

Quote

How can we get more participation in solving environmental health problems? By encouraging community leaders to come to the Health Department and other agencies to learn all they can about the environmental health needs and then to approach the governmental officials in quest of meeting these needs.

Clifford Alexander,
Environmental Health Planner



Raphael B. Levine, Ph.D.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the October meeting of MACHealth, the Council voted, after a spirited discussion, to approve the changes in language dealing with the responsibilities and influence of the new agency. A large majority of the members agreed with the committee appointed to negotiate the wording, that the new language fairly states the role of MACHealth in the health affairs of the six-county area. Several of the members felt, however, that MACHealth should play an even more influential role than indicated. I believe that all of the MACHealth staff and Council members want this new agency to be just as effective as possible, since the needs for comprehensive planning were never greater than at present. In fact, MACHealth has already been able to influence rather strongly some very important issues in the hospital and nursing home field, and the Council's power of review of all locally-originated action projects in the health field will continue to work toward a truly comprehensive, truly areawide kind of health planning.

With the new wording approved, the staff was able to enter the final stage of revising our proposal for funding by the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. When completed, the proposal will be published in a single binding, although the division into three volumes (project summary, budget and staff, and task force reports) will continue. We expect to print about a

thousand of these volumes, and will be surprised if the demand for copies is any less than this number.

MACHealth is continuing to receive recognition from additional important agencies: governments, medical professional associations, hospitals, voluntary organizations, and the like. Since June, some 13 such agencies have added their recognition to the 45 who had done so by that date. The list now covers nearly all of the important health action agencies, as well as many of those concerned with matters closely related to health.

MORE AIR CURRENTS

Four people active in MACHealth affairs have recently been seen on the area television media: Mr. A. B. Padgett and Dr. Raphael B. Levine were seen on separate programs on Channel 11 in the series produced by the Urban Life Center of the Georgia State University. Mr. Duane W. Beck was a recent guest on the Ruth Kent "Today in Georgia" show, speaking about the Community Council of the Atlanta Area. Mr. Louis Newmark was interviewed by Linda Faye on Channel 11 in connection with a session of the State Conference on Aging of which he was chairman entitled "Involvement of Older People in the Community." The appearances of Dr. Levine on Pat Wilson's "Tempo Atlanta" show (Channel 36) began, and are scheduled to continue with a monthly appearance at 11:30 A.M. on the fourth Thursday of each month hereafter.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TOUR

The Environmental Health Tour as presented in the August, 1969, Newsletter will be held on Thursday, November 13, 1969. Notices with further details will be sent to all MACHealth members before that time.

MACHEALTH MEETING DAY CHANGED

The MACHealth meeting day has been changed by action of the Council to the second Thursday of each month. This was done in order to avoid a conflict with the Executive Committee of the Community Council of the Atlanta Area, Inc., which meets the first and third Thursday of each month.

MRS. KATHARINE B. CRAWFORD—Trothplighted



Comprehensive Areawide Health Planning's Organization Liaison, Miss Katharine B. Crawford, has left the organization to become the bride of Dr. Marvin D. Smith. The bride and groom will reside in Gadsden, Alabama where he has established a practice in Ophthalmology.

Miss Crawford has made a tremendous contribution to the efforts of Comprehensive Health Planning and her presence will be missed by her friends and co-workers. The best life has to offer is wished for her and Dr. Smith.

BACKGROUND—William F. Thompson—Consultant

A hardworking member for MACHealth is William F. Thompson, Administrative Officer of the Cobb County Health Department.



He finished secondary school at Young Harris Academy, going on to Piedmont College for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in mathematics and education. He was awarded a National Science Foundation Scholarship to Washington University and received his Master's Degree in Public Health Administration from the University of North Carolina. He has been a tuberculosis investigator; Director, Medical Self Help Program; and an instructor in the Medical College of Georgia, Graduate Nursing Division.