



Hogg Foundation News

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NEW BOOKS LOOK AT CHANGE: INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT; PROGRAMS IN MR INSTITUTIONS

Regimens for the mentally retarded undergo continual review in order to develop new procedures which may ultimately enhance skills of retardates or upgrade the level of their care. To meet new concerns, a cross-disciplinary thrust is evolving in the training of persons who enter the helping professions.

Innovations in this area are addressed in a recent book, *Mental Retardation: Approaches to Institutional Change*, written by educational psychologists Charles C. Cleland and Jon D. Swartz. Grune and Stratton is the publishing firm.

"The principal audience to whom the book is addressed," the authors state, "are those in residential work...although it should also provide a valuable supplement to standard college texts on mental retardation...In brief readings, the reader will find considerable focus on the issues and problems relating to the [institution's] new employee, the profound and higher level mentally retarded, vocational training in rehabilitation, and the complex role of management in institutional life."

Subjects covered include: "The Human Side of Institutions," "Profound Retardation: Programming for Change," "Moderate and Mild Retardation: Approaches to Habilitation," "Innovating for Change--in Classrooms, on the Ward, at Play, in Use of Materials and Equipment, in Use of Physical Plant," and "Management's Role in Institutional Change."

Harry F. Dingman, president of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, makes this appraisal in the publication's preface:

...Demand for the multidisciplinary approach to such broad problems brings challenges that few can meet. ...In this manuscript, the educator, the psychologist, the experienced administrator, and the person trained in general management combine in two persons. Their guidance gives a prescription and some treatments for these diverse programs.

The 270-page paperback book is available at \$3.50 including postage and handling.

Challenges are today being aimed at long-accepted philosophical foundations for compelling some persons to submit to mental health treatment without consent.

A University of Texas law professor, George E. Dix, considers some of the innovations in a new Hogg Foundation pamphlet, *The Developing Role of the Defense Lawyer in Mental Health Litigation*.

Civil commitment proceedings -- to determine whether persons should undergo involuntary care -- traditionally have centered around what others may deem to be "in the best interests" of proposed mental patients. In such litigation, defense lawyers often have perceived themselves as having a limited role. Acting almost as "guardians," they may have set their own definitions of objectives for their clients, placing less emphasis on assisting them resist hospitalization.

New strategies are emerging as stronger consideration is given to procedural rights for proposed patients. Several courts have held that representation by an attorney who sees himself as advocate-negotiator on behalf of the client is a basic constitutional right.

The assumption by some is that proceedings to decide on involuntary commitment are "adversary" proceedings and that the lawyer is to serve, within the framework of the law, the client's wishes without making personal value judgments.

Still, given the fact that proposed patients may be emotionally and intellectually impaired, relying on their decision-making capabilities may be unrealistic. Activist attorneys attempting to fill the advocate-negotiator role face a difficult task.

Topics in Professor Dix's book are "Role Definition: Constitutional Mandate, Professional Ethical Standards, and Practicality," "Barriers to Effective Fulfillment of Advocate-Negotiator Role," and "Implementing the Advocate-Negotiator Role at the Pre-Hearing, Hearing, and in Appeal."

Price of the 28-page pamphlet is \$1.00.

Orders for either of the above publications may be addressed to the Publications Division, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, P.O. Box 7998, University Station, Austin, Texas 78712.

In This Packet

OPERATIONAL PROJECTS OF THE HOGG FOUNDATION: QUARTER CENTURY REVIEW

On August 4, 1977, more than 60 persons gathered at Hogg Foundation offices to review special projects undertaken by the Foundation over a 25-year period. Six major fields of endeavor were examined and scrutinized for long-term results.

The close of the day found this group joined by administrators of the University of Texas System at a reception and formal dinner.

Numbers of personal friends of Bernice Milburn Moore, HF Executive Associate, attended, also, in order to share in a surprise tribute to Dr. Moore's years of dedication and service to people of Texas and to the nation.

The event is reported in *Operational Projects of the Hogg Foundation: A Quarter Century Review*. Author is Charlene Warren Mann. Publication design is by Dianne Lewis.

LEARNING DISABILITIES IN THE FUTURE: LD IN AD 2000

What is likely to lie ahead in the rearing and educating of those with learning disabilities? Many changes may take place over the next 25 years.

Genetic engineering could drastically reduce the number of those affected by handicaps.

Education and training may take entirely different forms in order to achieve greater efficacy.

Environmental influences will have major impact.

Societal changes may be vast.

A number of future possibilities and directions are explored in author Bert Kruger Smith's *Learning Disabilities in the Future: LD in AD 2000*.

The new Hogg Foundation pamphlet is included in this mailing.

Mailing List Procedure

Many have inquired about being placed on the Foundation's mailing list. There is no fee involved—just your desire to have your name there. You need only inform the Publications Division of your wish to receive the mental health materials mailed at intervals throughout the year. The form below may be passed on to anyone who has expressed an interest in this service. *Please give us a change of address before you move if you are already on the list.*

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Box 7998,
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The Hogg Foundation News is an informational newsletter published at intervals throughout the year for the benefit of readers on our mailing list.