

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE WORK SINCE

APRIL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

*Nov 15 26*

Social Work Included in Budget:

Under date of May 1, 1926, a letter was sent out to all regional offices and hospitals suggesting that their social service requirements be considered and included in the budget estimates for the years 1927-1928. Individual estimates were presented to the Budget Committee June 1, 1926. It was estimated that the minimum number of social workers essential to the beginning of a Social Work Section was 36 social workers stationed in hospitals and 61 social workers stationed in regional offices. This required a budget for salaries

For hospitals	\$ 75,600
For regional office	<u>\$128,100</u>
Total	- \$203,700

The Budget Officer approved this appropriation for 1927 and agreed to increase the estimate for 1928 if proved necessary.

General Order No. 351, subject, Organization and Duties of Social Workers, was approved and adopted June 16, 1926.

Director's Approval for Appointments:

Under date of August 2, 1926, the Director approved the immediate appointment of psychiatric social workers to regional offices

and hospitals, but limited the number to 75 instead of 97, the minimum number required in Medical Service estimate.

Red Cross Withdraws from Veterans' Bureau Hospitals:

The American Red Cross was notified that under date of September 1, 1926, the Veterans' Bureau would assume full responsibility for psychiatric social work in all hospitals and regional offices. The Red Cross withdrew their social workers from neuropsychiatric hospitals September 1, 1926.

Veterans' Bureau Appointments are Begun:

Immediately after the Director's approval was secured appointments of psychiatric social workers were begun, all appointees being selected from the Civil Service register. To date the following number have been nominated and are either now on duty or will be at an early date:

In hospitals	14
In regional offices	<u>22</u>
Total -	36.

In accordance with the previous recommendations of the Medical Council, it was decided to place on duty a full quota of social workers at three of the regional offices, New York, Boston and Chicago, making these three stations centers for a demonstration of psychiatric social work. At the same time a skeleton force is being placed on duty throughout the entire country. This force will be augmented as the needs

The three regional offices named are to have the following number of psychiatric social workers:

New York	6
Boston	5
Chicago	5

Civil Service Examination Reopened:

In order to obtain more eligibles the Civil Service examination has been reopened and all schools of social work have been contacted with a view to obtaining the required number of social workers.

Forms Adopted for use in the Social Service Section: (September 1, 1926).

Monthly Statistical Report form for Social Workers adopted and sent to field with instructions.

Standard Outline for Psychiatric Social Histories adopted and sent to field with instructions for its use by all Social Workers

Resignation of Chief Social Worker:

Miss Frances Foster, Chief Social Worker, leaves Central Office October 1st. Miss Irene Grant, Psychiatric Social Worker, U.S. Veterans' Hospital, Perry Point, Maryland, is being temporarily assigned to Central Office to head up this work. Miss Grant's educational and professional qualifications are beyond criticism. She is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College and of the Simmons School of Social Work. She has had a number of years of experience in U.S. Veterans Hospitals and is

highly recommended by the Medical Officers with whom she has been associated.

*Frances A. Foster*

Frances A. Foster,  
Chief Social Worker

Sept. 20, 1926.