

HISTORY OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER DUBLIN, GA.

Dr. Louis J. Jacobs, psychiatrist from Central State Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia, started the first mental health services at the Laurens County Health Department in July, 1966, and that same year Mrs. Linda Dominy was hired as Mental Health's first full-time secretary. On August 19, 1970, Dr. David Quinn, Director of Public Health, announced that the Mental Health Clinic would be housed in the old Laurens County Health Department building located at 600 N. Jefferson Street, Dublin, Georgia. The staff of the Mental Health Clinic included Mrs. Frances Bradfield, M.S.W., Director, Mrs. Linda Dominy, Secretary, and Dr. Louis J. Jacobs, Psychiatric Consultant. Dr. John Currie, Clinical Psychologist, from Atlanta, Georgia, and Dr. James Kibler, Psychiatric Consultant, from Dublin, Georgia who joined the staff in September 1970.

In June, 1971, Dr. George T. Anderson, Ph. D., Clinical Psychologist, became District Chief of Mental Health. Since that time, mental health services for Laurens County and our other 10 counties have steadily grown.

In October 1971, an After-care Clinic was started with the help of an additional secretary, Mrs. June Mullis. Miss Jerry White, Psychology Technician. When mental health services were first provided in 1966, Dr. Jacobs was seeing approximately 14 clients for regular therapy. By 1971, the Mental Health Clinic was seeing approximately 58 patients in regular therapy and about 35 patients in the After-care clinic.

In February, 1972, G. Richard Tyson, a Masters Level Psychologist was hired. During 1972, Dr. Anderson worked very hard in order to obtain Federal money through Title 16 for the expansion of After-care Services and Alcohol Treatment Program. This effort

failed when the Federal Government froze funds for Title 16. Dr. Anderson continued to work on development of an Alcohol Program for this area. Dr. Anderson was also laying the groundwork for Retardation Day Care Program for the 9-county area. In June, 1972, Mr. Gary Evans, Psychology Technician, joined the staff as a Family Care worker. The goal of the Family Care Program was to provide homes for adult patients in state institutions and for those facing hospitalization in the near future. Many people in institutions were capable of functioning normally if given the chance, but were kept in hospitals because they had no family and nowhere to go. The family care patient was carefully screened and matched with a receptive family. The family was paid room and board by the state. In that year, Mr. Evans made about 8 placements. In December, 1972, Mrs. Faye Pope joined the staff as secretary. An attempt was made to establish a psycho-educational center in Dublin with Title IV-A funds. A grant was written and Dublin was high on the priority list to obtain the center, but Title IV-A funds were frozen. In March, 1973, Dr. Anderson resigned and went into private practice in Dublin. Mr. Tyson then acted as Clinical Director. In July, 1973, Dr. Don Copeland was appointed Network Director for Area Network 20. Mr. Copeland's efforts on the part of mental health were most helpful. Mrs. Linda Dominy, first full-time employee of the mental health program, left to serve as Mr. Copeland's secretary. Her position was filled by Mrs. Frances Combs, on October 8, 1973.

During the summer of 1973, the mental health clinic was responsible for writing a grant for psycho-educational program which was state funded. The grant was funded for the next school year and Mrs. Martha Hickerson was hired as Director. Although this

program was no longer under the Department of Human Resources, it was certainly an asset for mental health.

In July, 1973, Chaplain Joe Glisson was hired as Director of the Alcohol Program. In October 1973, a grant was submitted to the state for a Child and Adolescent Program. \$40,000.00 was funded for this program. Also, in October 1973, Mrs. Diane Everett replaced Gary Evans as Family Care Worker, who left to work as an evaluator for the Psycho-Ed Center. Mrs. Jerry White left September, 1973, to obtain her Master's Degree in Social Work.

In November, 1973, Mrs. Julia Mitchell, M.S.W., was hired as a regular staff member for the Mental Health Clinic. Her husband, William F. Mitchell, was hired in December, 1973, to head up the Child and Adolescent Program.

In March, 1974, Don Jordan, Social Work Technician, was hired for the Adolescent Program. In May, 1974, Mrs. Connie McDaniel joined the Adolescent Program as secretary.

In April, 1974, the clinic submitted an Invitation and Development Grant to the National Institute of Mental Health for \$50,000.00. This grant was approved. The purpose of the grant was to assess the mental health needs of our catchment area, make plans for comprehensive mental health services to meet these needs, and to write an adequate Staffing and Construction grant in order to secure funding from the National Institute of Mental Health. Mr. William Mitchell resigned from the Adolescent Program in June of 1974 to work with the Child and Adolescent Program in Macon, Georgia, as a full-time counselor.

On October 15, 1973, Miss Peggy Grier, Psychologist I, was hired. Dr. Samuel J. Heaton, Medical Director, and Mr. Don Copeland, Area Network Director, went through considerable trials and tribulations to hire a Unit Director for mental health services for our area. Mr. Eddie Roland, who served as Health Planner for the Richmond County Health District with a rich background in Administration, planning of Health and Mental Health services, and Grantsmanship was hired. Mr. Frank Fields was also hired the same month as Project Director for the Invitation and Development Grant. The Child and Adolescent Program also hired a Social Work Technician, Miss Carol Bass, resident of Laurens County. This was indeed an exciting year for Mental Health in Laurens County and the other counties in the Area Network 20. The county Commissioners approved local matching funds for a Construction Grant for a new Comprehensive Mental Health Center behind the Laurens County Health Department. This was Dr. David Quinn's dream for several years and he worked very hard to obtain the fulfillment of this dream. The Mental Health Clinic began seeing 1,100 clients, about 500 in aftercare services and 600 in regular therapy. Mrs. Diane Everett in the Family Care Program placed approximately 16 clients in Family Care homes across the counties served. Mental health services for Laurens and the other counties in the South Central Health District had grown.

Numerous and unending changes and restructuring have molded and shaped the Community Mental Health Center of Middle Georgia since the early beginnings. It is expected that the agency will be able to continue to provide comprehensive community mental health services well into the future. We continue to work side-by-side with sister agencies in our area, that include schools, courts, family and children services, vocational

rehabilitation, day care services and numerous others to help those we serve. The Community Mental Health Center has maintained a great amount of community support in order to build such comprehensive programs and services and establishes it as a legacy agency in the helping communities in the areas we serve.