

January 4, 1960

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF STATE HOSPITAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
SUBMITTED TO DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HYGIENE

HOSPITAL 1 CAMARILLO STATE HOSPITAL

Increase in salary structure for medical staff and employees in nursing services.

Greater public education in order to encourage acceptance of the hospitalized patient as an "individual", a member of a family unit in a community.

HOSPITAL 2

Inadequate office space is provided for most administrative and medical staff.

The quarters in which the staff of the division of patients accounts is housed are too small and interfere with the efficient operation of this unit.

The questionnaire mailed to responsible relatives of patients on admission should be reviewed for possible revision. The language is both archaic and obscure.

Vacancies in hospital social service staff may be result of unsatisfactory salary scale.

Number of family care homes should be markedly increased.

Can Trustees help with recruitment?

Geriatric ward extremely overcrowded, allowing little space between beds

HOSPITAL 3

Need for accelerated program of modernization of old ward buildings.

Immediate clerical assistance needed for medical records section.

Improvement in salary structure for physicians and psychiatrists.

Construction of professional office building, chapel, and water storage facilities needed.

Increase in hospital security force desired.

Steps should be taken to decrease number of admissions of senile patients not requiring state hospitalization.

HOSPITAL 3 (continued)

Study of all hospital employees salaries should be made to determine what can be done to lessen high turnover rate.

HOSPITAL 4

Need for increased staffing at all levels. Children's Unit should be staffed at 100% of standards.

Because of higher requirements for care of newly admitted patients it is recommended that hospitals having high admission rates be allowed an additional \$.5 per capita to the standard per capita figure.

The salary scale for all levels of psychiatric technicians should be made more comparable to those of similar classes in Department of Corrections.

HOSPITAL 5

Encourage close cooperation between community and hospital. Increase number of volunteer workers.

Improved hospital program could be secured with increases in the following areas:

Personnel Deficiencies: Additional personnel is needed in the categories of nursing, medical, ancillary, food service and laundry.

Operating Fund Deficiencies: Additional funds should be made available for medical supplies; consultant services; housekeeping supplies, and maintenance supplies.

Deficiencies in Physical Plant: Reduction of overcrowding through improved square footage allowance for ward activities areas.

Acceleration of modernization program of outmoded ward buildings.

HOSPITAL 6

Revision of pay scale for psychiatric technician trainees and psychiatric technicians.

HOSPITAL 7

The program has been supportive to the needs of patients and the physical plant has been greatly improved. Increases in personnel improved the level of care with more intensive treatment which reduced the length of hospitalization and resulted in a greater rate of release of patients.

HOSPITAL 7 (continued)

Concern about the basic problem in which it appears that as the hospital's treatment program improves and growth in population becomes stabilized, employees involved in this more intensive treatment program will be reduced by a fixed formula. The danger is a reversal in the gains accomplished.

A serious point of criticism is the continued operation of the large farm program within the city limits. The Board feels it can contribute most in matters relating between the hospital and the city, rather than in the internal operations of the hospital.

There appears to be need for further study, with some modification, in the methods by which patients are processed before entering the hospital. Local authorities are being brought in with the hospital to consider the matter.

A treatment program of the hospital is operating at an efficient and effective level within existing budgetary limitations and physical facilities. Some salary levels are not equitable or competitive, resulting in excessive turnover of employees, and inability to attract the best people. There appears to be a shortage in equipment and supplies. This is recognized as a matter of internal budgetary process.

The Department of Mental Hygiene would appear not to have taken sufficient action to round out its program in post-hospitalization, with little, if any, facilities other than placement in family care homes for patients not ready for full release. Progress in this matter would appear to need more personnel to organize and more funds to support operational facilities, such as half-way houses, sheltered workshops, etc.

The need for hospital personnel to work with community health services program is recognized but this constitutes a serious strain on the already short hospital staff. This need should be regarded as a legitimate function and extra staffing provided by the Department. There is need for clarification as to who has the major responsibility of providing a community program.

HOSPITAL 8

Technicians should be paid comparably with the guards in the Department of Corrections. This applies also to security officers.

There should be more rehabilitation service personnel and money for their supplies. The security and safety of the institution requires for non-psychotic offenders that we reserve prison as an alternative placement for the non-psychotics. This principle should be extended to apply to patients under other forms of commitment. The principle of institutional units of the Department of Mental Hygiene, in the Department of Corrections, should be extended in view of the excellent psychiatric facilities at Vacaville.

HOSPITAL 8 (continued)

The Department should express its awareness that Atascadero is the leading hospital of its type in the Nation. This should be diffused by the Department's public information staff where it would be most valuable in public relations to forestall criticism and assist the hospital in recruitment.

HOSPITAL 9

Attention is called to difficulty of reduction in hospital population by the decreasing death rate and the increasing rate of admissions. The hospital is praised because the overall population has not increased. Increased appropriations and resulting improved treatment are examples of true economy and should be a major aim of the department.

The volunteer services program is highly commended. Attention is called to the fact that they would have been of little use if there had been poor staffing of the hospital, or poor administration. Increased appropriations, therefore, also doubled the value of volunteer work.

The Half-way House operated by division of volunteers is highly commended by the Board. This should receive strong support from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

HOSPITAL 10

The eight-point program announced by the Director is commended.

The passage of the Short-Doyle Act should have far-reaching effects but it is to be hoped that this will not result in a reduction of appropriations so badly needed by this hospital.

One of the volunteer programs, the L-H Club, has become a valuable training device. We should like to see more of this type of activity.

There is a serious need for an addition to the acute hospital area of this institution.

HOSPITAL 11

The recommendations made in this report related specifically to the Trustees Meeting; namely (1) that the Director give his own opinions as to the duties of the hospital trustees, (2) that a period of time be devoted to a closed meeting with the Director, and (3) that the highlights of the Reports of the Trustees of all the hospitals be put in order, duplicated and circulated to each trustee of each hospital.