

September 15, 1947

Honorable Board of Supervisors
501 Hall of Records
Los Angeles, California

Subject: Annual Report

Gentlemen:

The Psychopathic Probation Department of the Superior Court submits herewith it's annual report for the fiscal year 1946-47.

Respectfully yours,



(MRS.) GENEVIEVE DODGE
Chief Psychopathic Probation Officer

GD:hh

During the year 1946-47 the Psychopathic Probation Department has focused its attention upon the following problems for improving the care, placement and treatment of the mentally ill in this County:

1. Extension of service in prevention and early treatment of the mentally ill, having favorable prognoses;
2. Development of additional facilities for the senile or aged mentally ill;
3. Study of veterans' needs for extended neuropsychiatric facilities;
4. Institute on Alcoholic Studies and extension of this service;
5. Development of inter-related community services caring for the mentally ill;
6. Trainee Program for personnel recruitment;
7. Survey and recommendations in placement of the mentally defective under County care;
8. Legislation
 - a. Change of Department name.
 - b. Restoration of mentally ill (Sec. 5078).
 - c. Additional permissive method of admission to state institutions for mentally ill.

There is an increasing awareness on the part of the public of the value of a program for the early treatment of the mentally ill. With over 7,000 more patients than "normal capacity" crowded into California's eight state hospitals and two homes for mentally deficient, the necessity for such a program is obvious. Our Department carries forward a program for the rehabilitation of the early or recoverable type of case whose favorable prognosis warrants selection for treatment under probation. The Department has established close working relations with agencies and sanitariums taking part in this rehabilitation program.

Foremost throughout many years, the work of Resthaven has been outstanding and is filling an increasing community need. Resthaven is the only non-profit institution in the County caring for mentally ill women. In the past year there were 216 admissions. This case load represents original court cases, returned probation cases and referrals from other agencies, individuals and physicians. The Psychopathic Probation Department acts as a referral source for the community and assists in the placement and follow up counsel of such patients. This service is an integral part of a preventive program in mental health.

At Resthaven there is available a well-established mental health service. This includes psychiatric, medical, psychological and occupational programs. Fifty-seven patients received electroshock therapy. There is a professional class in relaxation, which is carried on weekly, and which is considered a valuable part of the psychiatric service. There is a well-planned occupational therapy program with various classes in arts and crafts. A recreational program is carried on by a volunteer staff under psychiatric guidance. Field trips, sports and physical education classes are conducted. The patient also has access to psychometric testing and various laboratory work. The average period of care with modern treatment is two months which is a marked reduction of waste in human as well as economic resources resulting from mental illness of certain types. This is compared with an average of 80 days during the preceding year which is indicative of improved treatment and methods.

A Recovery group has been organized to help patients in their readjustment, and to assist them with their problems after leaving

the sanitarium. This group meets monthly, and is conducted as an adjunct to sanitarium care. There is open discussion of mental problems, group therapy is conducted under psychiatric guidance, and the patients assist themselves and the guests at Resthaven in a program of self-education.

The Psychopathic Probation Department has participated in a drive to develop an additional unit for Resthaven. There is a critical need for this additional bed space which merits community interest and assistance.

In addition to Resthaven there is another sanitarium which has similar program, although it is geared to meet the needs of the acutely disturbed who will respond to immediate treatment.

Whereas Resthaven can admit patients who require a minimum of supervision, this other sanitarium accepts patients with any degree of mental illness. The criterion for admittance is based on the prognosis. In this way our Department has been able to launch and develop as a community service, a program for treatment of mentally ill women. This sanitarium will accept patients dependent on County aid at the rate of \$78 per month. The treatment includes electro-shock therapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational guidance, individual and group psychotherapy under direct supervision of a psychiatrist. Group psychotherapy continues after the patient returns to her own home. The average length of stay per patient is three months.

AGED MENTALLY ILL

The majority of the senile cases, or aged mentally ill, are cared for in sanitariums and at Rancho Los Amigos. This number of harmless, chronic cases is rapidly increasing in our community due to the following reasons:

- a. Lengthened life span;
- b. Growing population and age group trends in Southern California;
- c. The overwhelming number of Old Age Security recipients in this County.

Public and private facilities are taxed to the utmost to provide this care. The State Hospitals, with their tragically overcrowded quarters, indicate that care of the aged among the acutely psychotic patients is almost impossible as many seniles require close nursing attention and take the time of a limited psychiatric staff to the detriment of the recoverable or acute case requiring treatment.

In an endeavor to meet this need, investigation was made of all local, licensed private institutions and small wards developed in several sanitariums for care of such cases. A survey was also made at Rancho Los Amigos of all mental defectives held there and a number of beds were made available, as indicated in our report under "Mental Defectives".

Through our report and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, 40 beds were reserved at Harbor Hospital for senile patients requiring custodial care.

The proposed addition to the psychiatric unit at Rancho Los Amigos of 200 beds will, when eventually completed, meet the acute need but it seems that expansion in a program for public care of the aged, mentally ill in this County as well as throughout the State is imperative.

VETERANS' CARE

The need for adequate psychiatric care for veterans is, of course, national in scope. Due, however, to the percentage of veterans returning, and coming to this County, the need is more acute and the facilities quite inadequate. During the period from August 14, 1946 to June 30, 1947, 706 veterans passed through this Court on mentally ill and alcoholic petitions. The case load was distributed as follows:

	8-14-46 to 2-27-47		2-27-47 to 6-30-47		<u>TOTAL</u>
	Mental	Alc.	Mental	Alc.	
Committed to Vets. Admin.	M. 235	90	81	14	420
	F. 10	2	4	0	16
Committed to State Hosp.	M. 18	5	79	18	120
	F. 1	0	0	0	1
Dismissed	M. (8-14-46 thru 6-30-47. 23 were alc.)				71
	F. " " " 2 were alc.)				2
Placed on Probation	M. (8-14-46 thru 6-30-47. 44 were alc.)				73
	F. " " " 3 were alc.)				3
					<u>706</u>

Every effort has been made to screen these men carefully in order to establish their eligibility for Government care and prevent their commitment to State Hospitals. One contact man was requested by this Department and allowed by the Veterans Administration to temporarily handle this service. During the months August, 1946 through February, 1947 all honorably discharged mentally ill veterans were considered eligible for care in the Veterans Facility and during this period 333 cases were

so placed. Since February 27, 1947, however, this Facility, due to lack of beds, has considered eligible only those veterans who were ill due to service connection, and only 99 have been accepted.

It is very evident that if there were bed space available in our local psychiatric unit to continue these cases for more intensive investigation and review of eligibility adjudication, many veterans would be entitled to Government care rather than being committed to State Hospitals and later transferred back as is the present practice. There is also a need for a permanent contact officer to handle this problem.

In order to bring this matter to the attention of the proper authorities so that intelligent action might be taken to safeguard the veterans' rights, this Department took part in a survey studying the facilities available for the psychiatric treatment of veterans. The survey team consisted of a representative from this Department, one from the State Department of Mental Hygiene and a member of the Los Angeles Veterans' Service Center. Material was collected from all facilities in this area now rendering such service, both clinical and institutional. The purpose of the study was:

1. To facilitate transfer of veterans now in State Hospitals to the Veterans Administration facilities;
2. To inaugurate methods of more quickly identifying veterans and proving eligibility for Government care;
3. To eliminate delays in determining applications for hospitalization in order to prevent needless commitment of veterans to State Hospitals;

4. To establish a more effective coordination between the County psychiatric hospital and the Veterans Administration in securing hospitalization in that facility for the service-connected or service-aggravated case;
5. To determine the program now existing in this community for the care of the veteran and to set forth the need for adequate hospital and clinical facilities.

ALCOHOLIC DIVISION

The actual number of stimulant cases heard in the Psychopathic Court during the fiscal year was 887, more than 25% increase over 1945-46. The number of cases on probation June 30, 1947 was 443, of which 324 were men and 119 women.

Each alcoholic seeking treatment on his own petition, or filed on by relatives or friends, is interviewed prior to the hearing, social history taken and a plan worked out with patient and family to present to the Court. Patients are placed either under sanitarium care or on outside probation. For the latter, the Alcoholic Division has sponsored a night class, known as the "Alcoholic School", where patients report weekly and avail themselves of the group discussion and group therapy method developed in this school. Volunteer speakers from the medical profession, psychiatrists, psychologists and various allied group leaders head these discussions and open forums follow where the alcoholic may receive help with his individual problem and become acquainted with the various avenues of education in this field. Close contact is had with Alcoholics Anonymous. Speakers from that valuable group often attend the Alcoholic School and patients placed in sanitariums are able to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the vicinity. In several of the local sanitariums regular

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held weekly on the sanitarium grounds.

A staff member of this department attended the summer session on "Studies in Alcohol" at Yale University in 1945 and 1946. Through recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and their splendid cooperation, a similar Institute was developed at the University of California. A five-day session was held on the campus August 19 through 23, 1946 with notable authorities in the field of alcoholism as speakers, including Dr. E. N. Jellinek of Yale University. The attendance averaged 150 persons per session and the evening session 300. Plans for a second Institute are in progress for October, 1947. The University of California at Berkeley is to hold a similar summer session as a result of our original Institute.

There is great need for a State institution to care for alcoholics exclusively with a farm in connection for the more chronically ill. An out-patient clinic in this community for alcoholics is essential. This, to be effective, must be properly staffed with psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists in order to understand and treat the underlying causes of this almost untouched problem.

INTER-RELATED COMMUNITY SERVICES

To establish the need for psychiatric clinics in this community a study has been carried on in collaboration with the State Mental Hygiene Clinic, by referring to their psychiatric service an unselected number of mentally ill patients who are

living outside of custodial care in the community. This project has not only developed an informative study for extension of such services but has been of real value to the mentally ill patient.

The Jewish Committee for Personal Service has established an experimental program in connection with our Department to assist both patients and relatives in their special cases having psychiatric problems. This has been most effective.

During the past year another community agency has proven to be a valuable asset to the work of our Department. This agency is the State Department of Rehabilitation and it has been instrumental in training or re-training a number of our mental patients for vocational placement and financial independence.

A survey has also been participated in by our Department to ascertain the Mental Health needs in outlying areas, stressing the existing needs for children throughout the County. This Committee on Mental Health explored the inadequate programs now existing in the schools, health centers, Probation Department, Bureau of Public Assistance and Courts with a view toward organizing inter-related services and coordinating a more effective mental health program.

STAFF TRAINING

One of the problems in a public service caring for the County's mentally ill is the fact that no trained personnel is available. To develop such a source a trainee program has been recommended following the line of that employed in the Probation Department. The training period will continue for one year and at the end of this time the trainee must qualify by examination

for appointment as Psychopathic Probation Officer.

An in-training program covering all phases of our work will be instituted. University classes will be part of the schedule and visual and auditory training will be obtained by visiting coordinating agencies. As there is no psychopathic probation work in any other field or government service, it is believed the training of such personnel will be invaluable to our County service.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES

Due to the lack of state facilities for the care of mentally defective and epileptic cases there has been a gradual and increasing accumulation of such cases under County care. These cases must necessarily be placed by this Department in Rancho Los Amigos or private sanitariums because they cannot be managed in their homes, or because there is no available vacancy at Pacific Colony. In May, 1947 a survey of mental defectives and epileptics placed at Rancho Los Amigos and sanitariums revealed 257 such cases. Out of this number 77 cases

In Rancho	23 women	29 men
In Sanitariums	22 women	3 men

are 45 years of age, or older, hence are not acceptable at Pacific Colony due to age and the extensive waiting list of younger applicants urgently requiring care.

At Rancho Los Amigos on the active waiting list for Pacific Colony there were 38 women and 39 men; in sanitariums, 18 women and 7 men. There were also 22 pending applications in the process of filing.

The number of mental defective persons under supervision of this Department is almost the same for men and women: 129 women

and 127 men. The number of applications is steadily increasing and with so few vacancies at Pacific Colony, the only state institution available to Los Angeles County for such patients, it appears there will be little relief until the state extends its building program to more adequately cover the need.

It has also been urgently recommended to the State Department of Mental Hygiene to include in one of the state hospitals a ward for the more disturbed mentally deficient case who, though not considered psychotic, is a great burden on this county pending acceptance at Pacific Colony. The majority of these cases, due to the nature of their conditions, must receive permanent custodial care and are at present taking the beds at Rancho Los Amigos which should be used for the care of senile cases.

A current psychiatric examination of all mentally defective cases cared for at Rancho Los Amigos has been requested by this Department, believing a number of those originally considered simply defective or feebleminded have developed a psychotic condition and should be committed to a State Hospital.

LEGISLATION

In line with modern mental hygiene thinking, change in the title of this Department and its staff has been sought through legislation. The present terminology is a deterrent in establishing rapport with a mentally ill patient. He attaches the usual implication to the word "probation", feeling that he is regarded as a criminal offender rather than an ill person and that a Court officer must be feared. Through conference with various sources of modern psychiatric services, the Department is requesting a

change in the name from Psychopathic Probation Officers to Counselors in Mental Health, the Department to be known as the Mental Health Department of the Superior Court.

A change has also been recommended in Section 5078 of the Welfare and Institutions Code which would permit filing a petition for restoration to competence of a mentally ill person without the usual fee. This would eliminate the financial hardship now imposed on many indigent patients.

Committee work has been participated in relative to an additional permissive method of admission of patients to state hospitals without court action. Such a method may eventually reduce the number of cases filed on in this Court.

FINANCIAL DIVISION

During 1946-47 the Financial Division of the Department handled the expenditure of \$142,335.67 for Psychopathic Court Wards. This involved the verification of monthly bills from an average of 35 private sanitariums to which \$139,160.05 was paid for the board and care of patients; for other purposes such as telegraph, transportation, medical and dental service, and clothing, the expenditure of an additional \$3,175.62 was authorized after investigation showed neither the patient nor his responsible relatives had the financial ability to meet the cost.

The Department collected \$32,695.25 from reimbursements, refunds, patients' estates, relatives and other sources. Of this \$11,741.43 was turned over to the general fund and \$930.73 to the Bureau of Resources and Collections. As of June 30, 1947 there was held in the Auditor's trust \$7,843.83 for 96 patients to be

drawn upon as circumstances warrant.

A major function of the Financial Division is the investigation of assets belonging to the patient and the determination of the ability of responsible relatives to pay for sanitarium care. During the fiscal year investigation subsequent to the original court order developed ability to pay which reduced the County's payments \$1,816.91 per month.

STATISTICS

New Cases Heard in Psychopathic Court During 1946-47

Showing Dispositions Made

	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>SUBTOTALS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
New Cases Heard				
Mental	2044	2256		4300
Stimulant	635	206		841
TOTAL	2679	2462		5141
Placed on Probation				
Mental	573	850	1423	
Stimulant	221	99	320	
TOTAL	794	949	1743	
Dismissed				
Mental	130	108	238	
Stimulant	75	21	96	
TOTAL	205	129	334	
Committed to State Hospitals				
Mental	1341	1298	2639	
Stimulant	339	86	425	
TOTAL	1680	1384	3064	5141

In addition to 5141 new cases there were also 567 cases of returned probationers heard, making a grand total of 5708 hearings in the Psychopathic Court.

	<u>1945-46</u>	<u>1946-47</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
New Cases	4525	5141	616	13.6%
Returned Probationers	449	567	118	26.2%
TOTAL HEARINGS	4974	5708	734	14.7%

The following tabulation provides a breakdown by age groups of the 5141 new cases that came before the Psychopathic Court during 1946-47:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MEN</u>		<u>WOMEN</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	<u>Mental</u>	<u>Stimulant</u>	<u>Mental</u>	<u>Stimulant</u>	<u>Mental</u>	<u>Stimulant</u>
10-19	75	1	65		140	1
20-29	365	34	320	19	685	53
30-39	378	194	407	81	785	275
40-49	333	229	392	67	725	296
50-59	225	129	262	30	487	159
60-64	112	29	118	4	230	33
65-69	121	13	136	2	257	15
70-79	252	5	307	3	559	8
80 plus	183	1	249		432	1
TOTAL	2044	635	2256	206	4300	841

GRAND TOTAL -- 5141

PSYCHOPATHIC PROBATION CASE LOAD DATA, 1946-47

	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total on Probation 7-1-46			
Mental	1013	1640	2653
Stimulant	<u>259</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>373</u>
TOTAL	1272	1754	3026
New Cases			
Mental	573	850	1423
Stimulant	<u>221</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>320</u>
TOTAL	794	949	1743
Discharged			
Mental	452	626	1078
Stimulant	<u>131</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>205</u>
TOTAL	583	700	1283
Committed			
Mental	108	173	281
Stimulant	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>45</u>
TOTAL	133	193	326
Total on Probation 6-30-47			
Mental	1026	1691	2717
Stimulant	<u>324</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>443</u>
TOTAL	1350	1810	3160

As of June 30, 1947 these patients on probation were placed as follows:

	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Private Sanitariums	493	908	1401
Rancho Los Amigos	338	226	564
Harbor Hospital	14	22	36
Los Angeles County General Hospital	6	13	19
Outside with relatives or friends	<u>499</u>	<u>641</u>	<u>1140</u>
TOTAL	1350	1810	3160

Methods of payment for Private Sanitarium placements vary according to the case, the following being the status on June 30, 1947.

	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Private Payment, or OAS supplemented privately	231	599	830
OAS supplemented by County	207	183	390
Paid Entirely by County	44	94	138
Own funds supplemented by County	<u>11</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>43</u>
TOTAL	493	908	1401

COST TO COUNTY FOR PRIVATE SANITARIUM CARE

FISCAL YEAR 1945-46

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Patients</u>	<u>Patient Days</u>	<u>Cost of Board & Care</u>	<u>Cost per Patient Day</u>
July	369	10,436	\$ 8686.61	\$.83
August	386	10,802	8795.98	.81
September	357	10,101	8303.27	.82
October	367	10,437	8484.17	.81
November	374	10,306	8607.20	.84
December	377	10,706	8850.87	.83
January	374	10,753	8676.77	.81
February	376	9,660	8588.18	.89
March	376	10,584	8434.54	.80
April	375	10,408	9056.57	.87
May	371	10,551	9139.22	.87
June	<u>357</u>	<u>10,119</u>	<u>8858.46</u>	<u>.88</u>
TOTAL	4459	124,863	\$104,481.84	\$.84

FISCAL YEAR 1946-47

July	579	16,913	\$ 11243.21	\$.66
August	579	17,169	11511.89	.67
September	647	18,523	13019.89	.70
October	348	10,388	9502.07	.91
November	361	10,100	9860.54	.98
December	346	9,736	9149.83	.94
January	601	17,310	12929.86	.75
February	584	15,565	12854.73	.83
March	568	16,755	12073.24	.72
April	559	15,896	12122.52	.76
May	567	16,703	12630.99	.76
June	<u>555</u>	<u>15,838</u>	<u>12261.28</u>	<u>.71</u>
TOTAL	6294	180,896	\$139,160.05	\$.77