

The Superior Court
County of Los Angeles
Mental Health Department

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
1934 HOSPITAL PLACE
LOS ANGELES 33, CALIFORNIA

October 15, 1952


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

Subject: Annual Report

Gentlemen:

The Mental Health Department of the Superior Court
submits herewith its annual report for the fiscal year
1951-1952.

Respectfully yours,


(MRS.) MARY M. MC GINNIS
Counselor in Mental Health

The Mental Health Department has continued in carrying out the following functions for Department 54 of the Superior Court, in accordance with the California Welfare & Institutions Code.

(a) COURT INVESTIGATIONS

It is the primary duty of the Mental Health Department to make a pre-court investigation and prepare a report of cases appearing in Department 54 with the exception of the sex psychopath hearings. In the latter type of hearing, the pre-court investigation is conducted by the Probation Department.

(b) SUPERVISION OF PATIENTS PLACED IN SANITARIA, RANCHO LOS AMIGOS, OR HARBOR HOSPITAL

The Mental Health Department is responsible for the placement of patients in a suitable sanitarium or rest-haven home. Whenever possible, relatives or friends are requested to assist in formulating the best placement plan for the patient.

Financial status, type of care required by the patient, and available bed vacancies are the factors determining the type of placement.

The sanitarium are licensed for the care of the mentally ill by the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

(c) OUTSIDE SUPERVISION CASES (Supervision of Patients who return home following hearing)

Patients in this group are those found to be mentally

ill at the time of the court hearing, but an "outside supervision" order is made as hospitalization is not required. The patients return to their own home, often with the recommendation that they seek private psychiatric treatment.

The "outside supervision" court order enables a patient to return to the psychopathic hospital without an issuance of a new petition. The patient, a member of the family, a friend, or any other party may call upon the Mental Health Department for assistance in relation to a patient on an "outside supervision" order.

The Mental Health Department has continued with the study of its internal operations and reorganization plans.

(a) RECORD SECTION

The procedures in this unit have been simplified; duplication has been eliminated; and authority delegated to one of three persons in the record section. The reorganization was completed early in 1952 and this unit has been operating efficiently and effectively.

(b) FINANCIAL SECTION

The Auditor's Office has been making an audit and assisting with a reorganization plan since April, 1952. This study is in process and the results will be noted in the next annual report.

(c) SANITARIUM SECTION

A consulting psychiatrist was assigned to the Mental Health Department and started employment on August 28, 1951. His primary duty is to examine and to set the rate of board and care for patients placed in private sanitarium who require county funds.

This psychiatrist also assists in public relations, in generating more beds for placement of the aged, and in improving the standards of care in private sanitarium.

(d) PETITIONS SECTION

On June 9, 1952, the Mental Health Department was given a new assignment which resulted in formation of the Petitions Section. A Deputy Counselor in Mental Health performs the duties involved in accepting petitions for observation in the Los Angeles County Psychopathic Hospital of the alleged mentally ill, the mentally deficient, the epileptics, the alcoholic patients, the drug users, and the abnormal sex offenders.

A complete report on this section will be offered in the next annual report.

A policy change which has affected the total case load of "supervision" cases was instituted during the past year. The new policy enables the Counselor in Mental Health to submit a dismissal to the Court, based on the legal-medical-social aspects of the case instead of the "time rule" policy

of one year or more under "Outside Supervision." This change in policy has decreased the total case load, although there has been an increase in new cases.

Statistical and fiscal tables with explanatory notes follow:

ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT PSYCHO-
PATHIC DIVISION, LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL, FOR
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1951 to JUNE 30, 1952, SHOWING SERVICES
RENDERED AND DISPOSITION OF VETERANS
(TABLE I)

These data show the over-all increase in patient load as reflected by an approximate 15% increase in veterans' actions over fiscal year 1950-51. The table also gives information regarding commitment of veterans to State Hospitals versus Veterans Administration Facilities. During the fiscal year 1951-52, for each veteran admitted to a Veterans Administration Facility from this Court, 5.25 were sent to a State Hospital. During the fiscal year 1950-51, the ratio was 1 to 3.2.

TABLE I
 ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT PSYCHOPATHIC
 DIVISION, LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL, FOR FISCAL YEAR
 JULY 1, 1951 to JUNE 30, 1952, SHOWING SERVICES RENDERED AND
 DISPOSITION OF VETERANS.

Court Dispositions	Claim Filed	* No Claim Filed	Total
Committed to State Hospitals	689	97	786
Committed to V.A. Hospital	12	143	155
Granted Supervision in Sanitarium	70	41	111
Granted Rancho Supervision	13	11	24
Granted Outside Supervision	1	47	48
Dismissed		167	167
Committed to State Hospitals for Deportation		27	27
Died		5	5
Totals	785	538	1323

*No claims filed because of refusal to cooperate, prior power of attorney granted elsewhere, peace time service only, guardianship cases, existing receipt of compensation or pension, residence beyond jurisdiction of VA Regional Office in Los Angeles, etc.

Note: The above figures do not necessarily represent the total number of veterans passing through Psycho. Div., LACGH, during the fiscal year. Cases are screened by the Counselors and referred to the American Legion only if preparation of a claim appears to be in order.

NUMBER OF AGED MENTAL AND STIMULANT PATIENTS APPEARING BEFORE
THE PSYCHOPATHIC COURT. NEW CASES ONLY.
(TABLE II)

This table demonstrates the steady increase in the number of cases of the aged appearing before the Court. "Ment." and "Stim." respectively refer to whether the patient appeared on a mental petition -- that is, one alleging mental illness, or an affidavit of intemperance prepared and filed because of alleged intemperate use of alcohol.

(Note: Throughout this report for statistical purposes, cases involving mental deficiency and abnormal sex behavior are gathered together with those involving mental illness. Similarly, the term "Stimulant" includes cases involving alcohol, narcotics, and addiction to barbiturates.)

TABLE II
NUMBER OF AGED MENTAL AND STIMULANT PATIENTS
APPEARING BEFORE THE PSYCHOPATHIC COURT.
NEW CASES ONLY.

Fiscal Year	Ages 60-65				Ages 66 and over				Total
	Men		-Women		Men		Women		
	Ment	Stim	Ment	Stim	Ment	Stim	Ment	Stim	
1945-46	96	16	92	2	500	17	627	2	1352
1946-47	112	29	118	4	556	19	692	5	1535
1947-48	123	31	150	3	658	8	837	3	1813
1948-49	156	25	152	10	798	11	890	3	2045
1949-50	200	35	166	13	854	9	904	5	2186
1950-51	205	43	181	5	911	16	977	4	2342
1952-53	182	42	197	14	909	24	1101	2	2471

REPORT OF DISPOSITION OF AGED PATIENTS, PSYCHOPATHIC COURT,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Fiscal Year 1951-52/ (Mental Cases Only.)
(TABLE III)

This is a continuation of studies made of aged patients showing an analysis of dispositions made by the Court. When compared to the previous year, the report indicates increases in the percentages of patients placed on supervision and decreases in the percentages of patients sent to State Hospitals.

TABLE III
 REPORT OF DISPOSITION OF AGED PATIENTS, PSYCHOPATHIC COURT,
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Fiscal Year 1951-52. (Mental Cases Only.)

	New Mental Cases			Mental Cases Reheard		
	New Mental Cases	% of Total New Mental Cases	% of Age Group 60 Yrs. & Older	Mental Cases Reheard	% of Total Mental Cases Reheard	% of Age Group 60 Yrs. & Older Reheard
Dispositions Age 60 to 65						
Supervision	206	3.5	8.6	17	2.7	5.9
Dismissed	18	.3	.8	3	.5	1.0
Committed	152	2.6	6.4	16	2.5	5.6
Total Heard Age 60 to 65	376	6.4	15.8	36	5.7	12.5
Dispositions Age 66 & Older						
Supervision	1742	29.5	73.3	119	18.8	41.5
Dismissed	48	.8	2.0	11	1.7	3.8
Committed	211	3.6	8.9	121	19.1	42.2
Total Heard Age 66 & Older	2001	33.9	84.2	251	39.6	87.5
Total Heard Over Age 60	2377	40.3	100.0	287	45.3	100.0
Total Heard All Ages	5896			634		

Summary: Of all new mental cases heard - over 60 yrs. of age:

81.9% were granted supervision
 2.8% were dismissed
 15.3% were committed
 100.0%

Of all reheard mental cases - over 60 yrs. of age:

47.4% were granted supervision
 4.8% were dismissed
 47.8% were committed

CASES HEARD IN PSYCHOPATHIC COURT FISCAL YEAR 1951-52
SHOWING DISPOSITIONS MADE

(TABLE IV - A. NEW CASES ONLY)

Table IV-A shows disposition of all new cases heard by the Court during the year and shows the breakdown between mental and stimulant cases with a further breakdown between men and women. This represents only those patients appearing on new petitions.

(TABLE IV - B. CASES REHEARD ONLY)

Table IV-B shows cases which have been returned to the Court for further consideration. Patients are returned when, in the opinion of the Counselor, there is sufficient information to warrant reconsideration by the Court. Patient's are also returned at times from Sanitaria when it has been determined that the individual patient is not benefiting from the sanitarium program and state hospital placement is to be considered.

TABLE IV - A
 CASES HEARD IN PSYCHOPATHIC COURT FISCAL YEAR 1951-52
 SHOWING DISPOSITIONS MADE

NEW CASES ONLY

		MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
NEW CASES HEARD	Mental	2803	3093	5896
	Stimulant	1188	268	1456
	Total	3991	3361	7352
NEW CASES PLACED UNDER SUPERVISION	Mental	1233	1630	2863
	Stimulant	47	31	80
	Total	1282	1661	2943
NEW CASES DISMISSED AT HEARING	Mental	278	203	481
	Stimulant	150	42	192
	Total	428	245	673
COMMITTED TO STATE HOSPITALS & VETERANS FACILITY	Mental	1292	1260	2552
	Stimulant	989	195	1184
	Total	2281	1455	3736

TABLE IV - B

CASES REHEARD ONLY

		MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
CASES REHEARD	Mental	212	374	586
	Stimulant	48	24	72
	Total	260	398	658
REHEARD CASES PLACED UNDER SUPERVISION	Mental	80	148	228
	Stimulant	10	6	16
	Total	90	154	244
CASES DISMISSED AT REHEARING	Mental	27	17	44
	Stimulant	9	5	14
	Total	36	22	58
COMMITTED TO STATE HOSPITAL & VETERANS FACILITY FROM REHEARING	Mental	105	209	314
	Stimulant	29	13	42
	Total	134	222	346

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL CASES HEARD --- 8010

CASE LOAD MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 1951-52
(TABLE V)

Table V indicates the quantitative reasons for changes in the supervision case load figures from the start to the close of the fiscal year.

TABLE V
CASE LOAD MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 1951-52

UNDER SUPERVISION 7/1/51	4,396
<u>PLUS</u> TOTAL NEW CASES PLACED ON SUPERVISION DURING FISCAL YEAR 1951-52	2,943
<u>LESS</u> CASES DISCHARGED OR DECEASED	2,805
<u>LESS</u> CASES COMMITTED FROM SUPERVISION	346
RESULTING IN CASES UNDER SUPERVISION JUNE 30, 1952	4,188

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT -- PLACEMENTS AS
OF JUNE 30, 1952

(TABLE VI)

This table shows the physical distribution by number, of the patients under supervision of the Department as of June 30, 1952. Cases reported at Rancho Los Amigos and Harbor Hospital were those under court supervision and do not reflect the total population of those institutions. Patients shown in Los Angeles County General Hospital were either awaiting placement elsewhere or were subject to hospitalization for medical reasons.

TABLE VI
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 PLACEMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 1952

Sanitaria	2,140
Rancho Los Amigos	635
Harbor Hospital	48
Los Angeles County General Hospital	126
Locations unknown (on sanitarium orders)	18
Outside Supervision	<u>1,221</u>
Total	<u><u>4,188</u></u>

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES FROM BUDGETED FUNDS
FOR BOARD & CARE & OTHER ITEMS
(TABLE VII)

Shown in this table are the mandatory expenditures for Board and Care and other items of patients under supervision of the Court. These are departmental budgeted funds expended to provide all or part of patients' care. It is to be noted that these funds have been used only to supplement patients' own assets or income. The table also shows the total reimbursement to the general fund. Reimbursements are obtained from patients' estates, contributions of relatives, and miscellaneous sources.

The column "Other Items" on this table represents total expenditures for such items as communications, medical, surgical, and laboratory supplies, professional and expert services, rent of motor vehicles, wearing apparel, etc.

TABLE VII
 MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES FROM
 BUDGETED FUNDS FOR BOARD & CARE & OTHER ITEMS

	Board & Care	Other Items	Totals	Patient Days	Board & Care Only Cost Per Patient Per Day
1951					
July	\$45,622.17	\$1,934.41	\$47,556.58	27,961	\$1.63
Aug.	48,249.26	118.34	48,367.60	29,345	1.64
Sept.	49,145.67	625.29	49,770.96	28,249	1.73
Oct.	54,238.46	507.40	54,745.86	30,557	1.77
Nov.	57,428.52	1,828.67	59,257.19	30,527	1.88
Dec.	59,078.35	3,274.54	62,352.89	31,923	1.86
1952					
Jan.	62,698.49	614.58	63,313.07	32,503	1.93
Feb.	65,110.48	659.57	65,770.05	31,438	2.07
Mar.	68,482.83	1,341.70	69,824.53	33,829	2.02
Apr.	66,340.66	1,556.32	67,896.98	31,863	2.08
May	67,685.93	1,399.02	69,084.95	33,869	2.00
June	70,477.35	424.56	70,901.91	33,332	2.11
Totals	714,558.17	14,284.40	728,842.57	375,396	1.90*

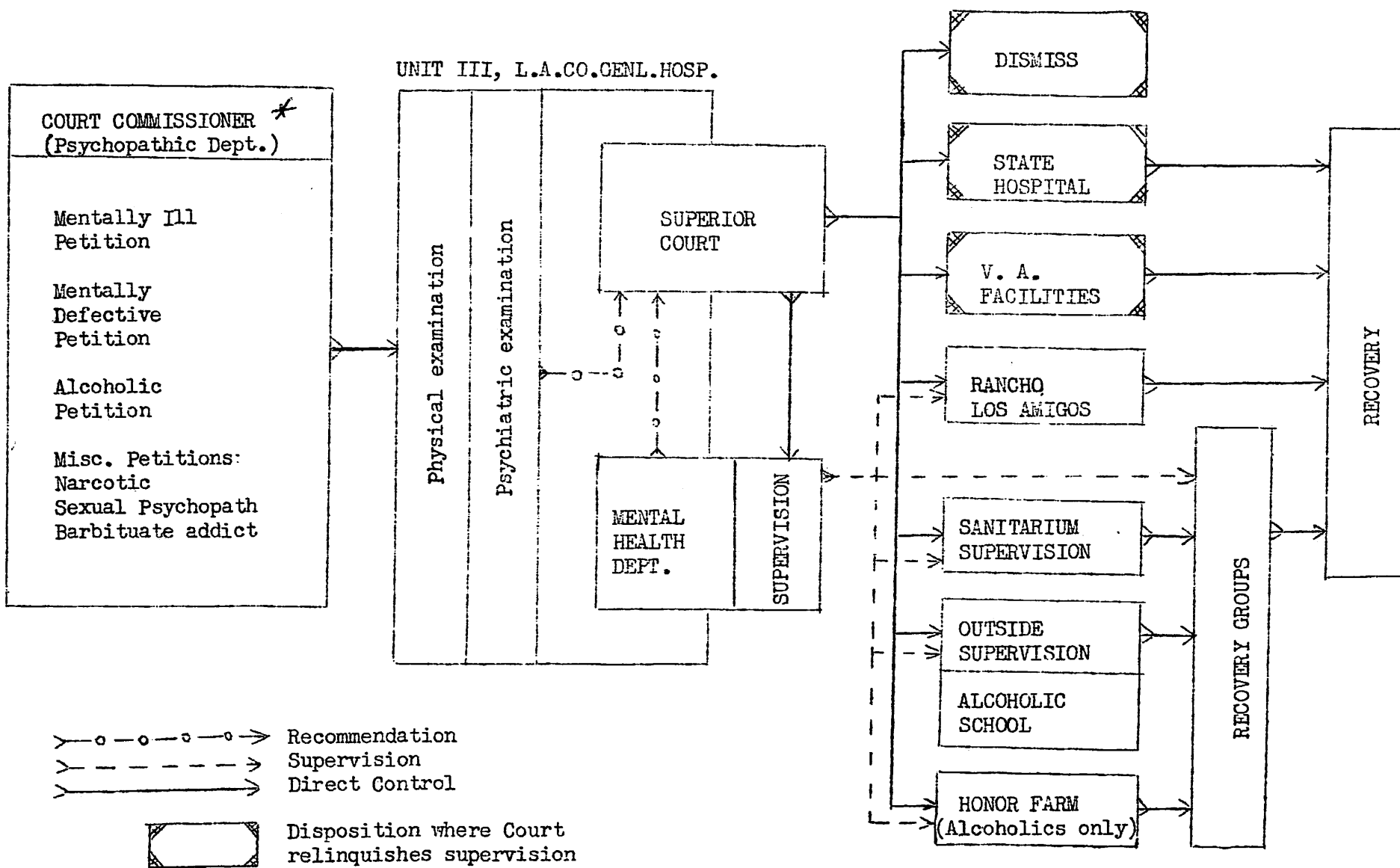
Total Reimbursements Received and Deposited in
 the General Fund \$22,102.46

Notes: On 7/1/51, the Board of Supervisors authorized increases in the four scheduled rates of \$75., \$82., \$110., and \$144. to \$80., \$90., \$120. and \$150. respectively, per month.

The above data are taken from Mental Health Department records. The Auditor's Office reports expenditures for Board and Care for this period of \$731,016.90. The difference may be attributed to a different distribution of the expenditures of the Department among the various fiscal years.

*Board & Care only. Cost per Patient per Day, Entire Year's Experience.

PROGRESS OF A MENTALLY ILL PATIENT — COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Mental Health Dept., County of Los Angeles, April 1950

** Commissioner Replaced
By Dep. Counselor in
Mental Health 6-9-53*