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Council of Community Services

PROGRAM REVIEW

October 23, 1962

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COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
OF
EDMONTON AND DISTRICT

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CURRENT COUNCIL PROJECTS (including those presently under way and possible new projects)

I. COMMUNITY AGENCY CONCERNS

1. Location of Welfare Services (Executive Committee) -- With the development of the City a number of changes have taken place in the location of social welfare services. Where these organizations should be in the future is a matter of some importance now with the development of Civic Center Plans and with the overall development of the city to such a size that decentralization should be considered.

2. Proposed Expansions in U.C.F. Agency Services -- Through the Admissions and Evaluation Committee it is anticipated a number of referrals should be made on proposed Agency expansions to be reviewed during the coming year.

3. Community Meetings Agency Personnel -- Mr. George Strachan of the Alcoholism Foundation suggested consideration be given to developing a program of meetings to take place in different social agencies over the program season. The purpose of the meetings would be to provide agency workers with better understandings of different services available and to promote increased liaison amongst agency personnel.

4. Information on Community Resources-for special seminars or workshops -- Requests from organizations to provide information on community resources, particularly related to their specific areas.

5. Agency Personnel and Agency Standards -- The development of better standards of agency service is an accepted Council objective. There has been no systematic gathering of information on personnel practices, salary studies, and programs of agencies which makes any considered approach on agency standards exceedingly difficult.

6. Education and Personnel for the Social Services Local Planning Committee -- (Temporarily held over) -- A letter has been received from Mr. Fisher, chairman of the National Commission on Education and Personnel for the Social Services of the Canadian Welfare Council. The request is to set up a local counterpart of the National Commission with a view to stimulating greater interest and activity in the areas of education and personnel for social work.

II. DELINQUENCY

1. Delinquency Control and Prevention Study Group (E. Taylor) -- The group objectives are "to study the causes of, the prevention of, and the successful treatment of juvenile delinquency." This group has served the purpose of bringing together representatives from a wide range of community services, for the purpose of examining together services in the community, and designed to prevent delinquency and those designed to serve the delinquent. It has been important in bringing together among other groups the traditional casework agencies and the groupwork and recreational agencies. During the past year the committee developed two reports. The first was presented to the Youth Services Division and the second to the Department of Justice Committee on Delinquency.

2. Juvenile Court Committee (D. Critchley) -- The formation of a Juvenile Court Committee with the following functions: the gathering, interpretation and dissemination of information on the incidence of delinquency in Edmonton; the appraisal of treatment measures; and the development of a coordinated and unified philosophy and approach to the delinquent.

3. Recommendations of the Juvenile Court Study

4. Length of Stay in and Lack of Education for Boys in Detention Home (D. Critchley) -- We are presently collecting information on this question. It looks as though there is a good chance of not only obtaining a new detention home but also a home equipped to supply more than mere detention.

III. HEALTH AND REHABILITATION

1. School for Physically Handicapped (Executive Committee) -- On behalf of a large number of groups within the Council membership to maintain a watching brief on developments.

2. Housing for Disabled - This has been identified as a specific need in the area of rehabilitation.

3. Central Registry for Handicapped Children (D. Critchley) -- To have instituted in Alberta a central registry for handicapped children.

4. Transportation of the Disabled (G. deCocq) -- To attempt to bring about a coordinated system of transportation for all types of handicapped persons in the city, and in so doing to eliminate the economic waste of overlapping services.

5. Request of Alberta Council for Crippled Children and Adults (G. deCocq) --

(a) To study function and recommend structure for Alberta Council for Crippled Children and Adults, and

(b) Study "Intake, Referral and Assessment of Disabled" in Alberta.

6. Dental Health Committee (Executive Committee) -- To establish an education committee of the Council to undertake an educational program in dental health.

7. Dental Care - Low Income Families (Executive Committee) -- To consider what might be done to develop organized services for dental emergencies.

IV. WELFARE OF CHILDREN

1. Day Care Committee (E. Taylor) -- The committee has been concerned with day care needs in Edmonton and District. It has recently submitted its report for consideration.

2. Creche Committee (E. Taylor) -- The purpose of this committee was to follow up on concerns about the Creche, assess the situation, and recommend appropriate action. This committee has met a number of times since the end of May and developed its report for consideration.

3. Presence of Children at Adult Films (D. Critchley) -- This is a specific in the area of the Division's long standing concern about cultural influences on children. The Division's function is seen to be that of isolating it as a question meriting community attention.

- 4) To sponsor an annual Edmonton Youth Conference.

The two major projects which this Council has undertaken in past years has been the Edmonton Youth Conference and the Youth Project Day. In addition, the Council was responsible for the creation of youth advisory committees to the Alcoholism Foundation, the Parks and Recreation Board and the C.B.C.

VI. COUNSELLING AND MENTAL HEALTH

1. Request to Up-Date Family Service Bureau Study (Executive Committee) -- The Board of the Family Service Bureau has requested the Council up-date the 1959 Joint Study of the Family Service Bureau. This may lead to a broad study of counselling services.
2. Counselling Services at Bowden and Fort Saskatchewan (E. Taylor) -- To meet with representatives from the Attorney General's Department with a view to exploring methods of securing adequate counselling services at Bowden.
3. Exploration of Need for Seminar on Cultural Backgrounds (E. Taylor) -- To assist agencies' personnel in understanding the cultural backgrounds of their clients.
4. Counselling Services for Youth (D. Critchley) -- The convening of a meeting to provide persons from a variety of fields who are concerned about counselling young people with an opportunity to:

- 1) Meet one another and learn of each others work.

- 2) Define and discuss common problems.

This meeting will be exploratory in nature. The discussion that takes place around item 2 will determine whether further action by the Youth Services Division is indicated. This is an area in which we have not been active but it is important that we have more specific information about its challenges.

5. Need for Greater Provision for Outpatient Psychiatric Services for Adults (Ernie Taylor) -- To explore further the need and to assess appropriate action.

VII. AGING

1. Senior Residents' Survey - Editorial Committee (G. deCocq) -- To edit the draft report prepared by Dr. James and to make arrangements for its publication.
2. Canadian Welfare Council Regional Conference-Housing for the Aged (G. deCocq) A conference called by C.W.C. as part of a study it is undertaking with the help of a government grant. We are taking an "arranging" role in this conference.

VIII. INDIAN AND METIS

1. Foster and Adoptive Homes for Indian and Metis Children (D. Critchley) -- To consider what is presently being done and what might be done to increase the supply of foster and adoptive homes for Indian and Metis children.

2. Implementation of Indian and Metis Study (Board).

IX. UNEMPLOYMENT

1. Day Centre for Transient Men (W. Nicholls) -- The Board at its June meeting endorsed the organization and establishment of this centre and is thus in the

position of standing by to assist the new Board in matters of organization, program and financing until it is well on its own feet.

2. School Drop-outs (Youth Services Executive and D. Critchley)

X. LEGISLATION

1. Social Welfare Legislation -- Most Councils are from time to time involved in the study of social welfare legislation. There are many new provisions in federal legislation which should be explored in terms of their relevancy to this Province and to the development of certain types of agency program and financing of specific activities. We need to be well informed on all provisions and to press for appropriate action in this province.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Community Projects for Voluntary Groups -- For a long time the Council has been aware there is no coordination of projects undertaken by service clubs, fraternal organizations, etc. Frequently staff are consulted informally by various groups. There is a need for an overall approach by the Council to community projects followed by some effort to coordinate proposed new ventures (as well as existing ones).

2. Problem Census -- Follow-up on the problem census is important as there is a long list of specific community concerns many of which still lend themselves to Council work.

3. Capital Expenditures -- It is suggested that an ad hoc committee of people experienced in the financial field ... in the field of welfare ... and in the field of fund-raising be set up to consider the methods that may be agreed upon for fund raising for capital expenditures; the possibility of a central building for health and welfare agencies, etc. With the anticipated growth of Metropolitan Edmonton pressures will become increasingly heavy in coming years.

4. National Emergency -- The possibility of a national emergency may be remote or it may be near at hand ... no one can predict accurately the trend over the next few years. But one thing appears certain. For political and other reasons defence preparations are going to be stepped up. Uniformed men and women will again be seen on the streets of Edmonton. The value of Civil Defence is an unknown quantity. All this will have an effect on health and welfare services in the years ahead. This concern should be before the Council and we should be prepared to gear ourselves for activity in this area.

5. Community Planning - informal (W. Nicholls) -- Consideration should be given immediately to the setting up of a long-range planning committee to develop long range plans; to look ahead and anticipate future community needs. Perhaps only in this way will "social planning" and "physical planning" become properly related.

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