

HISTORY OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC  
600 N. JEFFERSON STREET; DUBLIN, GA.

Dr. Louis J. Jacobs, psychiatrist from Central State Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia, started the first mental health services at the 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, 600 N. Jefferson Street, Dublin, Georgia. The staff of the Mental Health Clinic at that time 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 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 8 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, started in October, also. When mental health services were first provided in 1966, Dr. Jacobs was seeing approximately 14 clients for regular therapy. By this time in 1971, 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 the year 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 (Frank Brantley is providing the history of these programs). In June, 1972, Mr. Gary Evans Psychology Technician, joined the staff as a Family Care worker. The goal of the Family Care Program is to provide homes for adult patients presently in state institutions and for some people facing hospitalization in the near future. Many people in institutions are capable of functioning normally if given the chance but are kept in the hospital because they have no family and nowhere to go. The family care patient is carefully screened and matched with a receptive family. The family is paid room and board by the state. In that year, Mr. Evans made about 8 placements. In December, 1972, Mrs. Faye Pope joined our staff as secretary. An attempt was made to establish a psychoeducational center in Dublin with Title IV-A funds. A grant was written and Dublin was high on the priority list to obtain this center but Title IV-A funds were frozen. In March, 1973, Dr. Anderson resigned and went into private practice here in Dublin. Mr. Tyson has acted as Clinic Director since that time. In July, 1973, Dr. Don Copeland was appointed Network Director for Area Network 20. Mr. Copeland's efforts on the part of mental health have been most helpful. Mrs. Linda Dominy, the first full-time employee of the mental health program, left to become Mr. Copeland's secretary. Her position was filled by Mrs. Frances Combs, who came to work at the clinic 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 now 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 (Mr. Glisson will provide a history for this program). In October 1973, a grant was submitted to the state for 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. Mr. Evans went to work as an evaluator for the Psycho-Ed Center. Mrs. Jerry White left September, 1973, under stipend from Department of Human Resources to obtain her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Georgia.\* In November, 1973, Mrs. Julia Mitchell, M.S.W., was hired as a regular staff member for the Mental Health Clinic. Her husband, Wm. F. Mitchell, was hired in December, 1973, to head up the Child and Adolescent Program. In March, 1974, Don Jordan, Social Work Technician, was also 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 this grant is to assess the mental health needs of our 9-county 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. He is now working with the Child and Adolescent Program in Macon, Georgia, as a full-time counselor. The Mental Health

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\*On October 15, 1973, Miss Peggy Grier became a regular staff member of Mental Health Clinic as a Psychologist I.

Clinic, Dr. Samuel J. Heaton, our Medical Director, and Mr. Don Copeland, our Area Network Director, have gone through considerable trials and tribulations in the past 6 or 7 months trying to hire a Unit Director for mental health services for our 9-county area. In the last month, we have just hired Mr. Eddie Roland who has served as Health Planner for the Richmond County Health District. Mr. Roland has a rich background in Administration, planning of Health and Mental Health services, and Grantsmanship. Mr. Frank Fields has also been hired this month as Project Director for the Invitation and Development Grant. He is in the process of hiring a secretary and a social work technician. The Child and Adolescent Program has also hired a social work technician, Miss Carol Bass, a resident of Laurens County. Miss Bass was hired this month. This is indeed an exciting year for Mental Health for Laurens and the 8 other counties in Area Network 20. The county Commissioners have approved local matching funds for a Construction Grant for a new Comprehensive Mental Health Center behind the Health Department. This was Dr. David Quinn's dream of some years ago; he had worked very hard to obtain the fulfillment of such a dream in years back. At the present, the Mental Health Clinic is seeing 1,100 clients, about 500 in aftercare services and 600 in regular therapy. Mrs. Diane Everett in Family Care Program has approximately 16 clients placed in Family Care homes in 8 of the 9 counties we serve. Mental health services for Laurens and the other counties in the South Central Health District have certainly grown. It is hoped that we will be able to provide comprehensive community mental health services within the next year. By comprehensive, we mean out-patient services which includes regular therapy and aftercare, emergency services which include not only walk-in that we provide at the present time between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on week-days,

but also 24-hour emergency services, education consultations which means working with other helping agencies in our area, including schools, courts, family and children services, vocational rehabilitation, etc., day care services which will help those clients who can be taken care of in their homes at night but who need fulltime assistance during the day with such things as activity therapy, group therapy, etc. The 5<sup>th</sup> service is in-patient services, which is hospitalization and will be provided by Central State Hospital for at least a year and a half after comprehensive services are started. The Mental Health Clinic will need a great amount of community support in order to build this comprehensive program.

July 1994 CMHC became CSB of Middle Georgia