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## CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

425. BEACH AVENUE

ROCHESTER 12, NEW YORK

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SUPERINTENDENT  
MISS HANNAH L. HARLE, R.N.

July 13, 1959

Dr. Christopher Parnall, Jr.  
Chairman, Health Division  
Council of Social Agencies  
Rochester, New York

Dear Chris:

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Convalescent Hospital for Children held on June 8, 1959, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: That, contingent upon Community Chest approval of our request for a Capital Funds Campaign for not less than \$200,000 net, the Officers and Board of Directors of the Hospital undertake action to effect the closing of the Beach Avenue facility not later than September 1, 1960.

By letter of July 2, 1959, the Community Chest granted permission to Convalescent to conduct a capital expense campaign in the Fall of 1960.

This letter is written to notify you as Chairman of the Health Division of the Council of Social Agencies that the officers and Board of Directors of Convalescent Hospital wish to initiate the planning and action necessary to close the present hospital on Beach Avenue thereby discontinuing our service to physically ill children.

As you are well aware, the action presently being taken by Convalescent Hospital to change its function from the care of physically ill children to the care of emotionally disturbed children has stemmed from several years of study and planning in which the Council of Social Agencies played a leading role. We do not think it is necessary to go over the background in detail since you are fully familiar with it.

The 1953 report of the Mental Hygiene Committee of the Health Division, the Hiscock Report, the report of the Treatment Center Committee which I served as chairman, and the recent report of the Chronic Illness Committee are all the results of the Health Division's role in bringing about the change of function which Convalescent Hospital is now carrying out. In brief, the Council through the Health Division has recommended that Convalescent Hospital discontinue its service to physically ill children and organize itself to serve emotionally disturbed children.

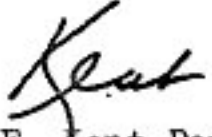
Over the years, there have been a number of suggestions and recommendations that Hillside Children's Center take over Convalescent's case load. The latest example is the recommendation of the Chronic Illness Committee. It would seem, however, that the considerations involved in providing for the children currently under treatment at Convalescent as well as the children who will require such care in future years go beyond Hillside and Convalescent. The recent expression by Msgr. Ratigan of the concern of the Catholic Diocese as to providing care at St. Joseph's Villa for Catholic children of the type normally admitted to Convalescent Hospital is but one example of the ramification of the change.

In view of the part played by the Council in urging the change in Convalescent's function and the multi-agency effect of the change, the Board of Convalescent Hospital believes that the primary responsibility for transfer of our case-load lies with the Health Division of the Council. We will, of course, cooperate with the Council in every way we can.

Present plans of Convalescent call for construction of the new Treatment Center to begin within 30 days and to continue for 8 or 9 months. We should, therefore, be ready for operations in the new facility by May or June of 1960. Since it will be extremely uneconomical to continue operations at Beach Avenue after the Treatment Center moves, planning should provide for transfer of our case-load at that time. I have provided you with our time schedule so that you will understand our feeling as to the urgency of the action required.

We trust that you will bring this matter before the Health Division at the earliest time possible in order that planning may be initiated.

Sincerely,

  
E. Kent Damon  
President

EKD/mff

cc: Walter Wenkert  
Richard B. Parks  
Hannah Harle