



Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Community Clinics, SG 1, Series 10

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Community Clinics, SG 1, Series 10
ID:	FA282
Date [inclusive]:	1927-1949
Physical Description:	1.52 Cubic Feet 4 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation note

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Biographical/Historical note

The Commonwealth Fund was established in 1918 with an endowment of \$10 million from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness for "benevolent, religious, educational and like purposes." The early grants supported a variety of programs while generally promoting welfare, especially child welfare. Several grants were made in the field of medical research, but the Board of Directors decided in 1920 that this field was already sufficiently supported by other philanthropic organizations.

Despite this decision, by the mid-1920s the chief interest of the Fund had become public health, including mental hygiene, community health, rural hospitals, medical research, and medical education. Other grant areas included war relief, educational and legal research, child welfare, and international medical fellowships.

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Scope and Contents note

The work of the Division on Community Clinics continued the efforts of Division II of the Program for the Prevention of Delinquency. Division II began its first demonstration child guidance clinic at St. Louis on May 10, 1922. With the expiration of the CF's five year program, the Cleveland Clinic's (December 31, 1926) and the Philadelphia Clinic's (June 30, 1927), demonstration nature ended, and they became permanent independent bodies. The entire Division II program was revised to stress increased use of the supervisory and consulting functions of the Division's field consultant staff, and promoted 1) continued contact with and supervision of the permanent clinics, and 2) additional field service to cities requesting assistance and advice regarding mental hygiene problems and programs.

The first director for the new division was George S. Stevenson, and Clara Bassett, the former chief social worker of the Vanderbilt Clinic, became the consultant in psychiatric social work. The Commonwealth Fund continued to support the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and its Division on Community Clinics until 1949. The last appropriation, \$2,000, was voted June 16, 1949, for the 1949-1950 fiscal year.

Existing documentation from the Division on Community Clinics consists of Dr. Stevenson's extensive correspondence with Commonwealth Fund officers and many state or local health officials. Some of the correspondence files may include internal memoranda, which are also filed separately, and field reports. Financial records for the Division are quite complete, and comprise budget and fiscal statements as well as correspondence relating to Division expenditures. The quarterly reports filed by Dr. Stevenson with the Commonwealth Fund provide comprehensive insight into the administrative decisions affecting the Division and the field and clinical work being performed by the organization.

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File Plan note

Former Classification: IX; IV 4B 4;

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Public welfare
- United States
- War relief
- New York (State)
- Public health
- Child mental health
- New York (N.Y.)
- Child welfare
- Child psychology
- Hygiene
- Education, Rural
- Legal issues
- Law
- Medical education
- Legal research
- Medicine, Rural
- Medical research
- Mental health
- Medicine -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc.

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Assistance to Clinics - Charleston, South Carolina Mental Hygiene Clinic, December 19, 1929-May 27, 1930	box 1	folder 1
Assistance to Clinics - Declinations (B-P), 1930-1939	box 1	folder 2
Assistance to Clinics - Declinations (R-W), 1930-1939	box 1	folder 3
Assistance to Clinics - Houston, Texas Child Guidance Clinic, November 18, 1930-December 12, 1930	box 1	folder 4
Assistance to Clinics - Louisville, Kentucky Psychological Clinic, July 10, 1930-July 3, 1935	box 1	folder 5
Assistance to Clinics - Portland, Oregon Child Guidance Clinic, May 13, 1930-November 8, 1930	box 1	folder 6
Assistance to Clinics - Virginia State Clinic, March 12, 1928-January 31, 1931	box 1	folder 7
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