



Commonwealth Fund, Program for the Prevention of Delinquency records, SG 1, Series 29

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Program for the Prevention of Delinquency, SG 1, Series 29
ID:	FA301
Date [inclusive]:	1921-1927
Physical Description:	1.52 Cubic Feet 4 letter document 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 Commonwealth Fund officially adopted its "Program for the Prevention of Delinquency" on November 9, 1921. The program consisted of four divisions: Division I, The New York School of Social Work; Division II, The National Committee for Mental Hygiene-Division of the Prevention of Delinquency; Division III, The National Committee on Visiting Teachers-Public Education Association of New York; and Division IV, The Joint Committee on Methods of Preventing Delinquency (JCMPD).

The New York School of Social Work established in 1919 a Department of Mental Hygiene, whose didactic objective was to give the school's students a better insight into human nature and conduct in health and disease. In order to give students opportunities for the actual study and management of problems in human maladjustment, in close affiliation with professional psychiatrists, the school maintained a Bureau of Children's Guidance in conjunction with the Neurological Department of Vanderbilt Clinic. The school also granted fellowships to qualified students and professionals to attend classes and seminars in child guidance. Most of the surviving records consist of financial statements and correspondence relating to budgets, and the Annual Reports from the Bureau of Children's Guidance (1922-1927). Division I of the Delinquency Program was created on December 1, 1921 and began operations on February 1, 1922. Division I formally ceased operations on July 30, 1927.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene was founded in 1909 and incorporated in 1916. Through funding by the Commonwealth Fund, the Committee's Division on the Prevention of Delinquency held Child Guidance Clinics in several cities, most notably Norfolk, Virginia; Dallas, Texas; and St. Louis, Missouri. The National Committee also sponsored a fellowship program. All the documents concern budgetary matters.

Division III of the Commonwealth Fund's program, The National Committee of Visiting Teachers maintained a series of clinics for visiting teachers, held grading demonstrations throughout the United States and furnished visiting teachers to many school districts. The work funded by the Commonwealth Fund was directed through the auspices of the Public Education Association of The City of New York, which was founded in 1895 and incorporated in 1899. After the Delinquency program ended, the Visiting Teachers Program continued under the general guidelines of the mental hygiene program. Demonstrations were maintained and contact and supervision of the permanent work established under the demonstrations was provided. Assistance and advice regarding visiting teaching problems and programs was given to cities requesting the same. The Commonwealth Fund granted money to the Visiting Teachers until June 30, 1930. The records are all of a financial nature and reflect the Committee's activities both as a component of the Delinquency Program and as an independent body. The National Committee on Visiting Teachers disbanded on June 30, 1931.

The Joint Committee on Methods of Preventing Delinquency (JCMPD) was incorporated on February 22, 1922 under the laws of the State of New York, and served as a coordinating agent for the Juvenile Delinquency Program and its member groups. The publication and dissemination of information and literature on juvenile delinquency and child guidance was a primary function of the JCMPD. The name of the Committee is misleading since the majority of its work entailed the directing of a program of mental health, child guidance clinics, visiting teachers, and the training of individuals for competency in child guidance. The Committee's documents include minutes of the organization, both before and

after the incorporation of the Committee, which transcribe the decisions of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the corporation as a whole. Financial records and the Committee's newsletter are also found in this collection. After the dissolution of its charter in 1927, many of the Committee's members formed the nucleus of the Commonwealth Fund's new Division of Publications, a not too unlikely move given the Committee's prior active participation in this area.

Individuals associated with the Commonwealth Fund's Program for the Prevention of Delinquency include Barbara S. Quin, Bernard Glueck, Howard W. Nudd, Barry C. Smith, Porter R. Lee, Graham R. Taylor, Julia C. Lathrop, Frankwood E. Williams, Henry C. Morrison, Thomas W. Salmon, Mildred C. Scoville and Ralph P. Truitt.

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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

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

Other Finding Aids

Other available finding aids describing the Commonwealth Fund records include:

[FA247 Commonwealth Fund Harkness House drawings](#)

[FA276 Commonwealth Fund records, Annual Reports, SG 1, Series 4](#)

[FA277 Commonwealth Fund records, Archives/Library, SG 1, Series 5](#)

[FA278 Commonwealth Fund records, Austrian Program, SG 1, Series 6](#)

[FA279 Commonwealth Fund records, Board of Directors, SG 1, Series 7](#)

[FA280 Commonwealth Fund records, Capital Grants, SG 1, Series 8](#)

[FA281 Commonwealth Fund records, Child Health Demonstrations, SG 1, Series 9](#)

[FA282 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Community Clinics, SG 1, Series 10](#)

[FA283 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Health Studies, SG 1, Series 11](#)

[FA284 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Public Health, SG 1, Series 12](#)

[FA285 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Publications, SG 1, Series 13](#)

[FA286 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Rural Hospitals, SG 1, Series 14](#)

[FA287 Commonwealth Fund records, Educational Research, SG 1, Series 15](#)

[FA288 Commonwealth Fund records, English Mental Hygiene Program, SG 1, Series 16](#)

[FA289 Commonwealth Fund records, Finance Committee, SG 1, Series 17](#)

[FA290 Commonwealth Fund records, Grants, SG 1, Series 18](#)

[FA291 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19](#)

[FA292 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships, SG 1, Series 20](#)

[FA428 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships, Fellows Reports, SG 1, Series 20A](#)

[FA293 Commonwealth Fund records, Institute for Child Guidance, SG 1, Series 21](#)

[FA294 Commonwealth Fund records, Interface Program, SG 1, Series 22](#)

[FA295 Commonwealth Fund records, Legal Research Program, SG 1, Series 23](#)

[FA296 Commonwealth Fund records, Living at Home Program, SG 1, Series 24](#)

[FA297 Commonwealth Fund records, Mental Hygiene Program, SG 1, Series 25](#)

[FA298 Commonwealth Fund records, Miscellaneous - unprocessed](#)

[FA299 Commonwealth Fund records, Personnel - unprocessed](#)

[FA300 Commonwealth Fund records, Pilgrim Trust, SG 1, Series 28](#)

[FA301 Commonwealth Fund records, Program for the Prevention of Delinquency, SG 1, Series 29](#)

[FA302 Commonwealth Fund records, Reference Files, SG 1, Series 30](#)

[FA303 Commonwealth Fund records, Reports of the General Director, SG 1, Series 31](#)

[FA304 Commonwealth Fund records, Treasurer, SG 1, Series 32](#)

[FA305 Commonwealth Fund records, Turndown Lists, SG 1, Series 33 - unprocessed](#)

[FA306 Commonwealth Fund records, Vertical File \(R. Fitz\), SG 1, Series 34 - unprocessed](#)

[FA307 Commonwealth Fund records, Visual Materials, SG 1, Series 35](#)

[FA389 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Historical Files, SG 1, Series 1](#)

[FA390 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Officers Files, SG 1, Series 2](#)

[FA429 Commonwealth Fund records, President, Margaret E. Mahoney, SG 2, Series 1](#)

[FA430 Commonwealth Fund records, Book Program, SG 2, Series 2](#)

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Scope and Contents note

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