



Commonwealth Fund records, Institute for Child Guidance, SG 1, Series 21

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Institute for Child Guidance, SG 1, Series 21
ID:	FA293
Date [inclusive]:	1926-1933
Physical Description:	0.57 Cubic Feet 1 document box, 1 half-document box
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's association with the Institute for Child Guidance stems from a revision in the Fund's Program for the Prevention of Delinquency. The Delinquency Program was drafted during the summer and early fall of 1921, with the CF Board adopting the program in November of that year. Actual work was not begun until the spring of 1922. The forerunner of the Institute for Child Guidance, The Bureau of Children's Guidance officially opened on February 1, 1922, but was not fully active until autumn of that year.

The five year period of the Delinquency Program expired in the spring of 1927. Already in early 1926, a revised program had been proposed. The Bureau of Children's Guidance closed June 30, 1927, and The Institute for Child Guidance opened in New York City on July 1, 1927. This new Institute, incorporated December 29, 1926, was affiliated with the New York School of Social Work and the Smith College School for Social Work in regards to the training of psychiatric social workers; and with the National Committee for Mental Hygiene in conjunction with the training of psychiatrists and graduate psychologists in practical child guidance work.

Both the administration and budget of the Institute were controlled by the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Fund. The nine member Administrative Board of the Institute was appointed by the CF Board of Directors, which retained the right to terminate any appointment at its discretion. Barry C. Smith, Director of the CF, was named Chairman; Porter R. Lee, Director of the New York School for Social Work became treasurer. Other board members included Everett Kimball, Director of Smith College School for Social Work, Frankwood E. Williams, Medical Director of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, Mildred C. Scoville, Executive Assistant of the CF, and Barbara S. Quin, also of the Commonwealth Fund.

Lawson G. Lowrey served as Director of the Institute, with David M. Levy as chief of staff, and Christine C. Robb as chief of social services. The initial yearly budget was approximately \$160,000. Although the Institute officially closed its doors on June 30, 1933, the Bank of United States, which underwent liquidation at the same time, owed the organization over \$20,000. Consequently, the Institute's certificate of incorporation was kept active. The bank's account with the Institute was fully settled in 1944, but the charter was not dissolved until 1951, when the Secretary of State of New York did so.

The majority of the Institute's surviving records consist of financial statements, audits and correspondence relating to fiscal or budget matters. The minutes of the Institute detail the activities of the Board of Directors, the incorporators, the annual corporation meetings, and the committee dividing the assets of the Institute. In late 1937 the Commonwealth Fund decided that all case files pertaining to the treatment of children at the Institute should be destroyed. Therefore, in February of 1938 these records, as well as the index to these cases, were burned. Other folders in this series contain sensitive material.

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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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Conditions Governing Access note

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Controlled Access Headings

- Medicine -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc.
- Mental health
- Medical research
- Medicine, Rural
- Legal research

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

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Case Files - Access Regulations and Destruction of Files, 1929-1937	box 1	folder 1
Financial Records - Accounting Correspondence, 1927-1929	box 1	folder 2
Financial Records - Accounting Correspondence, 1930-1933	box 1	folder 3
Financial Records - Accounts and Expenditures, 1927-1928	box 1	folder 4
Financial Records - Accounts and Expenditures, 1929-1930	box 1	folder 5
Financial Records - Accounts and Expenditures, January-December, 1931	box 1	folder 6
Financial Records - Accounts and Expenditures, 1932-1933	box 1	folder 7
Financial Records - Audits, 1927-1931	box 1	folder 8
Financial Records - Audits, 1932-1933	box 1	folder 9
Financial Records - Bank of United States - Liquidation, 1930-1951	box 1	folder 10
Financial Records - Budget/Budget Correspondence, 1926-1930	box 1	folder 11
Financial Records - Budget/Budget Correspondence, 1931-1932	box 1	folder 12
Financial Records - Fellowship Accounts, 1931-1933	box 1	folder 13
Financial Records - Income Tax, 1933	box 1	folder 14
Financial Records - New York Trust Company Account, 1933-1940	box 1	folder 15
Financial Records - Personnel Bonuses, 1932-1933	box 1	folder 16

Conditions Governing Access note:

Conditions Governing Access note

Restricted - Confidential material.

Financial Records - Treasurer's Correspondence, 1926-1927	box 1	folder 17
Financial Records - Treasurer's Correspondence, 1928-1929	box 1	folder 18
Financial Records - Treasurer's Correspondence, 1930-1931	box 1	folder 19
Financial Records - Treasurer's Correspondence, 1932-1933	box 1	folder 20
Financial Records - Treasurer's Reports, 1927-1933	box 2	folder 21
Incorporation (By-laws, Certificate and Correspondence), 1926-1932	box 2	folder 22
Incorporation (Dissolution), 1933-1951	box 2	folder 23
Minutes, 1927-1933	box 2	folder 24
Property Inventories, 1927-1933	box 2	folder 25
Property Inventories, 1927-1933	box 2	folder 26
Property Inventories - Correspondence Concerning the Distribution of Assets, 1932-1933	box 2	folder 27