

Report on the Community Child Guidance Centers of Chicago*

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The first Child Guidance Center in Chicago using the Adlerian approach and conducted by an Individual Psychologist started in the spring of 1939 at Abraham Lincoln Centre, a social settlement. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Curtis W. Reese, Dean of Lincoln Centre, for his courage and vision, as he opened the doors of his settlement house to an approach which at that time was not only little known, but regarded almost with contempt in professional circles where it was known. Dr. Reese can share with us today in the gratification of seeing this type of child guidance work recognized and accepted.

For many years our professional workers who conducted such clinics were employed by the various settlement houses who operated them. It was not until last year that the Individual Psychology Association followed the suggestion of Mr. Harold Wheeler, its Vice President, to change its work and constitution to concentrate on the organization and development of Community Child Guidance Centers. Prior to this time, the Association was mainly concerned with lectures and classes for professional workers and interested lay people. Its active members were those who applied Individual Psychology professionally in their work as psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and teachers. The reorganization changed this arrangement, inviting the lay public to become members and to work for the support of Community Child Guidance Centers. Within one year this reorganization proved its value and its efficiency. Starting almost from scratch with a small group, we have today about one hundred and thirty members who are enthusiastically giving their time and support.

The new arrangement of our membership affected not only the organization as a whole but also each Child Guidance Center. Previously, each Guidance Center was conducted by a psychiatrist or psychologist and a social worker. Now each Center has a large staff of volunteer workers, provided by the membership, who support actively and efficiently the work of the professional staff. It is a new type of Guidance Center which we have developed during the past year. It always has been a group enterprise, as group therapy was a characteristic feature of Adler's Child Guidance Clinics, comprising all parents and children in the guidance work. Now the group of the parents is supplemented by the group of workers which makes each Center really a collective.

The value of the collective spirit was clearly demonstrated last year at Henry Booth House. Mrs. Edna Hansen, who had worked as the social worker at the Child Guidance Center at Abraham Lincoln Centre for several years, tried to establish a Guidance Center at Henry Booth House where she is now Head Resident. However, the community of Negroes, new arrivals from the South, provided difficulties for this type of work. They had a deep suspicion

*Presented at the annual meeting, June 8, 1948.

of white people, the mothers were not accustomed to keeping appointments, and the opening of a Child Guidance Center had to be postponed several times. When Mrs. Hansen finally considered the time ripe to open a Center, a staff of paid and volunteer workers was assigned to Henry Booth House last fall. They came conscientiously, but the mothers did not keep their appointments and hardly anyone appeared. Mrs. Hansen felt very discouraged and did not want to impose any longer on the time of our workers. She suggested that the Center should be discontinued for the time being. Under the old arrangement of one or two workers, this would have been the course of action. But the collective, enthusiastic and eager, felt differently. They all decided to keep on coming until the community did respond. At the very next session a few parents came. And from this time on the clinic became very active. During the remainder of the season it took care of 32 families with 61 children. Without the high morale of the collective of workers this never could have been accomplished.

Today, the Chicago Community Child Guidance Centers, sponsored by the Individual Psychology Association, conduct two Guidance Centers, one at Abraham Lincoln Centre, the other at Henry Booth House. A third Center, located at Temple Sholom and called "The North Side Child Guidance Center," will start its operation in the fall.* An advisory board of civic leaders has been established to support the work of the Community Child Guidance Centers. Its members are, Dr. Louis Binstock, Rabbi of Temple Sholom, Dr. Jesse R. Gerstley, Senior Pediatrician at Michael Reese Hospital, Dr. S. A. Hamrin, Professor of Education, Northwestern University, Mrs. Edna Hansen, Head Resident, Henry Booth House, Miss Ethel Kawin, Lecturer, University of Chicago, Dr. Samuel H. Kraines, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois, Dr. Curtis W. Reese, Dean of Abraham Lincoln Centre, Dr. Ernst Schmidhofer, Consultant Psychiatrist, Marine Hospital, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Watkins, Assistant Director, Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare. The Medical Director and Supervising Psychiatrist of all Centers is Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs, Professor of Psychiatry, The Chicago Medical School; Assistant Medical Director is Dr. Arthur Zweibel, Instructor in Clinical Psychiatry, The Chicago Medical School. Dr. Ralph Hinton, Psychologist, Veteran's Administration, is the Clinical Psychologist.

The staff of the Child Guidance Center at Abraham Lincoln Centre consists of: Dr. Arthur Zweibel, Director, Mrs. Mabelle Brooks, Social Worker, Miss Antoinette Saunders, Group Worker, and Mrs. Adaline Starr, Psychodramatist. The volunteer staff consists of: Mrs. Letitia Bell (social work and recording), Mrs. Leona Hauschild (social work and reception chairman), Mrs. Helen Millman (recorder), Mrs. Selma Joseph and Mrs. Frances Levinson (recorders in training), Mrs. LeVeda Mair and Mrs. Florence Fink (art work), Mrs. H. A. Gerard (story teller), Mrs. Wanda Kaczinski, Mrs. Winifred Emrich, Mrs. Ilse Eiben, Mrs. Weinstein (playroom assistants). There were 32 clinic sessions during the last season. The total attendance during the year, including staff, parents, children, medical students, and visitors, numbered 1,046. Of this number, 341 were children who participated in the play room; 18 families with 33

*This Center is now in operation. For further details, see page 42 of this issue.

children had individual attention. There were 110 interviews with parents and 75 with children. There were 8 staff conferences.

The Child Guidance Center at Henry Booth House was staffed by: Miss Eleanore Redwin, Psychologist, Director, Dr. Louis Richmond, Psychiatric Consultant, Mrs. Edna Hansen and Mrs. Rose Clements, Social Workers, Miss Mary Hata and Miss Lillie May Lynen, Group Workers, Mrs. Adaline Starr, Psychodramatist. The volunteer workers were, Mrs. Sydney Roth (recorder and art supervisor), Miss Louise Herst (staff co-ordinator), Mrs. LaVeda Mair (art work), Mrs. Gene Schneidman, Mrs. Eleanor Erickson, Mrs. Amelia Berkowitz (assistants in play room). There were 28 sessions with a total attendance of 417 which included 117 parents, 185 children, 115 visitors. The number of families treated was 32, the number of children, 61. There were weekly staff meetings.