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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

INCORPORATED

205 WEST WACKER DRIVE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

June 20, 1944

File

Mr. James Brown
Welfare Division
United Nations Relief and
Rehabilitation Administration
Dupont Circle Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Brown,

I am writing at this time to point up and confirm the discussion held June 1, 1944, between you, Dr. Frechette, Miss Bartlett, and myself. As you remember, our purpose was to think through the possible contribution of medical social work to foreign relief and rehabilitation.

In general, it appeared that we agreed on several points. First, according to the American pattern, medical social workers function as part of the medical team, either in the direct care of the patient (as in hospitals) or in the planning and development of medical care programs (as in the Crippled Children's Services). Because of this, medical social workers have been located primarily in the medical setting; but they also have been employed in welfare agencies when consideration is given to medical aspects and to the need for a liaison between health and welfare programs (as in the Federal, state, and local public assistance programs). Secondly, our experience and tentative exploration indicate that medical social work has a potential contribution to make in foreign relief and rehabilitation, that it might be through the Health and/or Welfare Divisions of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and that any decision relative to this can not be made without further clarification of programs. Thirdly, The American Association of Medical Social Workers offers its assistance through its staff and members for further discussion of social problems in relation to either personnel or programs needs, which UNRRA may have.

General agreement was reached also relative to a few steps to be taken as a result of the discussion.

1. Miss Bartlett and I agreed that the Association could prepare some tentative statement relative to the function of medical social work which would assist further discussion in relating basic medical social work to the particular situations in UNRRA.

2. Mr. Brown suggested that we be given the opportunity to explore the situation further with medical social workers who may be assigned as welfare workers through the Welfare Division. This would mean that someone in UNRRA would inform us of these assignments while the individuals are still in this country, and that following our discussions with such individuals, they would incorporate in their reports any observations or comments they could relative to medical social aspects.
3. If either the Health or Welfare Divisions wished to locate medical social workers with appropriate qualifications, they know of the Association's offer to assist in this. Because no publicity has been given to a need for medical social workers, it is questionable whether UNRRA would have on file at this time a representative group of applications.

Essentially the discussion on June 1, enabled those participating to arrive at some mutual understanding and an agreement that, although things would move slowly, it would be beneficial to assume some responsibility for further discussions. I am writing a similar letter to Dr. Frechette. For the present, I will serve as liaison for the Association. My address is: 928 South 26th Street, Arlington, Virginia. My telephone number is Jackson 2385.

Very sincerely yours,

Barbara Bailey Hodges

Mrs. Barbara Bailey Hodges, Chairman
Committee on War Time and
Reconstruction Services

AMER. ASSO. of MEDICAL
SOCIAL WORKERS

Amer. Assoc. of
Medical Social Workers

22 May 1944

Miss Harriet M. Bartlett
Medical-Social Unit
Children's Bureau
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Bartlett:

I wonder whether you might not like to talk to Mr. James Brown of my staff as to the possible place of medical social workers in the UNRRA program. I make this suggestion because Mr. Brown has been working closely with the Health Division in recruitment of medical personnel from the Voluntary Agencies. He would, I am sure, be glad to arrange a joint meeting of representatives from the Health Division.

Sincerely yours,

M. Craig McGeachy
Director, Welfare Division

MCMcGeachy:mj

OFFICERS

HARRIETT M. BARTLETT, PRESIDENT
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
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L. Brown

Miss Mary Craig McGeachy
Chief of the Welfare Division
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation
Administration
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss McGeachy:

Sometime ago I wrote asking if I might have the opportunity of seeing you. On reviewing my letter of March 21st I am wondering if you perhaps received the impression that I was requesting an appointment only for certain dates in March. I am therefore writing to explain that I am still interested to discuss with you certain matters that are of mutual concern to your agency and the medical-social workers in this country.

I understand that Mr. Joseph P. Anderson of the American Association of Social Workers has recently discussed with you the possible contribution of the professional social work organizations to your program. Our medical-social work group is cooperating with the other organizations in the general planning for the post-war period. There are however certain more technical aspects regarding the social aspects of health and medical care which fall directly in the area of medical-social work and it is these that we would like to talk over with you.

We will look forward to hearing from you regarding a time when we may have the opportunity of discussing these matters with you.

Sincerely yours,

Harriett M. Bartlett

Harriett M. Bartlett
President

Please reply to:
Medical-Social Unit
Children's Bureau
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

INCORPORATED

TELEPHONE RANDOLPH 3634
205 WEST WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS

May 6, 1944

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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
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SIMMONS COLLEGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MARIAN E. RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Recd.
30 mar - PM

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

March 29, 1944

To: Miss M. Craig McGeachy
From: Dr. James A. Crabtree
Subject: Letter from The American Association of Medical Social Workers

We would assume that these people are probably not seeking representation in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration but are more probably interested in discussing with officials in UNRRA the possible place for medical social workers, particularly as they might be helpful in setting standards for any and all private relief agencies who might be asked to recruit medical social workers.

What would be your objection to answering this letter, inviting discussion with a representative of that organization by you and a representative of the Health Division? We think it would be interesting to find out a little more about what they are thinking and what they might have to offer.

JAL

Reed.
23 Mar - PM

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

INCORPORATED

205 WEST WACKER DRIVE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

March 21, 1944

Miss Mary Craig McGeachy
Chief of the Welfare Division
United Nations Relief and
Rehabilitation Administration
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss McGeachy,

We are writing to request an appointment with you to discuss some of the implications for medical social work in the welfare program of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. As we have been able, over the past few months, to keep fairly current on both the health and welfare programs, we are not seeking that kind of information at this time. However, from this information have emerged some tentative plans in UNRRA regarding the role of the medical social worker, and we feel that it would be mutually helpful to discuss this a bit further. It would seem that there are two aspects involved here, that of making available to you whatever assistance we can, and that of meeting our responsibility to offer medical social workers guidance relative to wartime activities of a national and international scope.

We are aware of your very crowded schedule and will be glad to accommodate our time to yours in so far as it is possible. However, we would appreciate having an appointment on March 27th or 28th when the Executive Secretary of our Association will be in Washington. Your Secretary can reach me by telephone, Executive 2420, Extension 369, to advise us of the appointment.

Very sincerely yours,

Harriett M. Bartlett

Harriett M. Bartlett
President

March 28, 1944

TO: Dr. Crabtree
FROM: M. Craig McGeachy

Would you be good enough to let me have any comments
you may wish to make concerning the attached letter?

McGeachy:mm
28 Mar 44

Attachments
letter to McGeachy
from American Assoc.
Medical Social Workers
Harriett Bartlett
dated mar 21

COPY

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS INC

205 West Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois

March 21, 1944

Miss Mary Craig McGeachy
Chief of the Welfare Division
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss McGeachy:

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Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harriett M. Bartlett
President