

FACT AND OPINION

by SAMUEL SPIEGLER

MEDICAL COORDINATOR TO GUIDE AGED SERVICES IN PITTSBURGH

AN innovation in Jewish federation services to the aged and chronically ill has been introduced in Pittsburgh, where the United Jewish Federation is adding a medical coordinator to its staff.

His role will be that of assuring that persons in need are given proper services in desirable sequence and amount, and of developing needed services not presently available or expanding those that are inadequate. He will have access to the whole range of federation services, including Montefiore Hospital, the department for the aged of the Jewish Family and Children's Service, the Bickur Cholem Convalescent Home, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Senior Citizens Housing. The Geriatrics Service of the general medical clinic of Montefiore Hospital will be under his direction; thus he will supervise the screening, evaluation, referral, treatment and follow-up of aged patients coming to the clinic.

The coordinator will be accountable to the Health and Institutional Services Committee of the United Jewish Federation. A professional advisory committee, comprising staff members of the several agencies involved, will work with him.

A \$12,000 grant from the Walter S. Meyer Memorial Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation made the new project possible.

FEDERATION INCOME \$2.66 BILLION IN 25-YEAR PERIOD

OVER the past quarter century, central Jewish community organizations in the United States raised \$2,660,000,000 for domestic and overseas needs. Of this sum, almost \$1,500,000,000, went to the United Jewish Appeal, smaller amounts to other overseas agencies. Of the portion remaining, about nine-tenths was expended locally, one-tenth being allotted to national agencies. The actual distribution of allocations in 1962 was 59 percent overseas, 37 percent to local beneficiaries, four percent to national agencies.

These figures are taken or extrapolated from the latest report on "Jewish Communal Services: Programs and Finances" by S. P. Goldberg, director of budget research of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Federation campaigns produced steadily rising annual proceeds from 1939 to 1948, reaching a not-since-equalled peak of \$200,000,000 in that year of Israel's creation. The curve de-

clined after that to a post-war low of \$107,000,000 in 1954, then reversed itself, climbing to a high of \$138,078,000 in 1957. Since then it has fluctuated mostly in the \$125-\$130 million range.

JEWISH REFUGEES' ADJUSTMENT IN U. S. SHOWN IN SURVEY

JEWISH displaced persons and refugees who have settled in New York after escaping from one phase or another of Nazi persecution and threats have made an excellent adjustment to life in this city, according to a survey made by the New York Association for New Americans.

In the survey, according to Philip Soskis, Executive Director of NYANA, (Past President of NCJCS) 100 families, comprising 305 individuals, were chosen at random from 100,000 ex-DP's and refugees settled in New York since 1949.

Currently, the survey showed, 45 heads of families own their own business, 22 of which are small family enterprises such as grocery stores, bakeries, markets, etc. The other 23 are in manufacturing, contracting or personal service establishments in such varied fields as plastics, women's raincoats, construction, electrical work, textiles, bridal veils, furrier, tailor, etc. These 23 firms provide work for approximately 130 employees, ranging from one or two to 30 in one business.

The median earnings of family heads today are \$110 to \$125 a week, with the lowest weekly salary in the \$60 to \$70 bracket, and the highest over \$500. Some 33 earn between \$175 and \$500 a week. In the lower paid categories, family income is augmented by salaries of working wives, 29 of whom are employed. Another 11 assist their husbands in business.

One-third of the 100 families own their homes, including 24 one-family houses and two four-or-more family buildings. The number of children in these families is now 217, over 100 of whom were born in the United States. In interviews with NYANA social workers, families emphasized that the educational opportunities for their children were among the greatest benefits of life in their new homeland.

STUDY OF MENTAL IMPAIRMENT OF AGED LAUNCHED

A THREE-YEAR research project on Treatment and Prevention of Mental Impairment of the Aged has been launched by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, with a \$224,640 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Recent studies have shown that while the number and proportion of mentally disturbed aged in aged homes, nursing homes, and mental hospitals is growing—80 percent of the home and nursing home populations in New York State were found to be mentally impaired in some of these studies—there is a virtual absence of systematic use of methods for the prevention or treatment of mental breakdowns among the aged in these institutions. At the same time, voluntary agencies are continuing to undertake the care of such patients within their facilities rather than committing them to public mental institutions; and there has been a growing acceptance of general responsibility to make every effort to provide for better care for the health of these aged, and to find methods to make it possible for them to enjoy a more useful life in their remaining years.

The Council study will be conducted in three major phases: a questionnaire

addressed to all homes for the aged, except the very smallest ones, will gather information from the homes as to their populations, the nature of mental disturbance or impairment among them and the methods they utilize both for their handling and for their medical, psychiatric and social treatment; direct visits to a sample of the homes selected from the most modern homes for the aged indicated through phase one, involving interviews with the homes' executive and staffs about the problems of management and programs for the handling and treatment of their populations; and a series of direct examinations and case record reviews of residents in 10 or 12 selected homes by an inter-disciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social worker, and possibly others.

Co-directors of the project are Dr. Alvin I. Goldfarb, practicing psychoanalyst and psychiatrist, consultant on psychiatric services to the aged of the Department of Mental Hygiene of the State of New York; and Morris Zelditch, formerly director of community studies of the CJFWF. Dr. Franz Goldman, who conducted the Council's previous health study of the aged, will be a consultant.

SEMINAR IN GROUP VOCATIONAL COUNSELING

AN example of local and national co-operation for in-service training in the vocational service field took place recently in Cleveland.

During the past winter, the staff of the Cleveland Jewish Vocational Service determined that they needed to develop their group vocational counseling program beyond the traditional approach point of conveying information to teenagers interested in their vocational and educational futures. They

therefore requested that the Jewish Occupational Council find out whether there were specialized training facilities in the field of group vocational counseling elsewhere in the United States. A survey revealed that facilities for such were not presently available. Inquiries were then made of the Department of Guidance at New York University, which agreed to conduct a one-week seminar in Cleveland. This seminar, financed by the Cleveland Foundation, was held June 15-19 in Cleveland.

The seminar aimed to equip vocational counselors to help young persons find their vocational identities through group counseling methods and was sponsored nationally by the Jewish Occupational Council and locally by the Cleveland JVS in cooperation with the faculty of the New York University Department of Guidance. Members of the faculty were Drs. Clarence Mahler and Martin Hamburger of New York University. The objectives of the seminar were:

- 1) Conduct a critical review of present practices in individual and group vocational counseling with young persons
- 2) Clarify the need for developmental group counseling in each organization participating in the seminar
- 3) Explore the potentialities for such group counseling in the programs of the participating organizations
- 4) Provide short-term intensive training in the analysis of group process
- 5) Enhance the participant practitioners' present skills in group vocational counseling.

A bibliography was circulated in advance of the seminar. In addition to four members of the staff of the Cleveland Jewish Vocational Service, the fol-

lowing agencies sent professional participants: Milwaukee Jewish Vocational Service; Detroit Jewish Vocational Service; St. Louis Jewish Employment and Vocational Service; Chicago Jewish Vocational Service; Federation Employment and Guidance Service of New York. Also attending were staff members of the Cleveland Board of Education; the Vocational Guidance and Rehabilitation Service of Cleveland; the Cleveland Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and the Community Action for Youth.

Tape recordings were made of the entire conference, excerpts from which will be made available to interested agencies in the future. A summary of the seminar is now being prepared for distribution.

BERNARD STERN
Executive Director
Jewish Occupational Council

A READER WRITES

TO THE EDITOR:

I was very much impressed with Maxwell Fassler's article in the Summer, 1964, issue of the quarterly. The agency in the smaller community can play a dynamic role in the general and the Jewish community. I wonder if this

role differs materially from the role of the agency in the larger community. It is understandable that the smaller agency cannot do as much in the way of specialized research because of limitations of staff as relates to the number of staff and perhaps also to the number of clients. An agency with three or four children in foster homes certainly cannot do the same amount of research as an agency in a large community. The same principle would apply to marital counselling, problems of parent-child relationships, and other major areas of casework concern.

There is a related problem which I have noticed both in my capacity as representative of a regional agency and in my attendance at meetings of the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service. It seems that executives of agencies in smaller communities tend to isolate themselves, giving as the reason that their problems are different. The danger in this tendency is the possibility that the quality of service in a smaller agency might suffer. There should be no material difference in the quality of service offered by the smaller community as compared with a larger community.

SANFORD WEISS, A.C.S.W.
Jewish Children's Home Service
New Orleans, La.