

**TRANSYLVANIA'S
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**

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**How The Community Acts
Goes To School With The Students**

From time to time we have mentioned community attitudes as part of what the student takes to school. Today I would like to discuss how the community attitudes show concern or lack of it for all it's members.

For many years I have been working in the Mental Health Program and in various communities. Each community has been a different size, made up of different groups, and with basically different problems. But how the community works together to make a community that is a better place to live for all the members is pretty much the same.

Let us take an example of some need that Transylvania County has had to face. The need for recreational facilities for the home folks. Last Spring it seemed that everybody was convinced that better recreational facilities would be one answer to the prevention of the growing drug abuse in the county. There were various groups talking together about what was to be done. The Chamber of Commerce, the Jr. Women's Club, Western North Carolina Community Action, and a group of people called together by the Alpha Lambda Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for consideration of how they could help the youth of the community.

The most important idea that came out of all these groups was: that while we might do some little "busy work" projects to take us over the summer, the only way to really solve the problem is to plan on a long range basis. The amazing part of community work is that all groups were surprised and pleased to find that each had decided on the fundamental need: a long range plan which affects the whole community. To this end the Council on Community Services is having a meeting on November 18th, which is bringing together members of all these groups for a concentrated effort to make such long range plans.

This then is how the community shows its concern for all. To many who want "instant solution", just as we now seem to want "instant anything" this may seem a long, devious and unreasonable process. But if you will look at the history of many of the services now offered by this community you will find that they were developed in just this way. The process of people recognizing a problem, coming together to try to solve it and finding others are also concerned about it, has been the way groups of people have become a community.

This attitude "we can solve our problems together", is carried by our children to the school situation. It was most thrilling to find that the young people who came together with adults to discuss the problems of recreational facilities and what to do about drug abuse, were the children of adults who have shown their interest in developing community action. It is my earnest suggestion that young people be involved in continuing planning. Their ideas are good. If they like a plan their energy seems to be limitless and it is part of the whole process of passing on responsibility to the citizens of tomorrow.

Perhaps one last comment should be made. In the short time I have worked in Transylvania County many state and federal helpers have been in. You should know that they all express pleasant surprise to find this county has become a community. They don't say it in those terms, but this is what they mean. We are working as a community and the children and young people carry this attitude with them. Can we continue to work together, even though they feel we move slowly, to the end that all members feel the sense of community?

School Calendar For 1971-72

(9 1/4 Months)

May 24, 1972 ----- End of 180-Day Term
May 25-26, 1972 --- Extended Term for Teachers

HOLIDAYS:

November 25 - 26, 1971 ----- Thanksgiving
December 22 - 31, 1971 ----- Christmas
January 17, 1972 ----- Teachers Work Day-
Pupil Holiday
March 31 - April 3, 1972 ----- Easter

SCHOOL MONTHS:

First Month --- August 26 - September 23, 1971
Second Month --- Sept. 24 - Oct. 22, 1971
Third Month --- Oct. 23 - November 19, 1971
Fourth Month --- Nov. 22 - Dec. 21, 1971

Semester Examinations Are To Be
Scheduled Immediately Prior To
Christmas Holidays.

Fifth Month --- January 3 - January 31, 1972
Sixth Month --- February 1 - February 28, 1972
Seventh Month --- February 29 - March 27, 1972
Eighth Month --- March 28 - April 26, 1972
Ninth Month --- April 27 - May 24, 1972

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