

KERN GENERAL HOSPITAL
COUNTY OF KERN
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BAKERSFIELD

June 8, 1948

Hannah Fenichel, Ph D.
516 North Wilcox Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Dear Dr. Fenichel:

I have your letter of May 10, however the Social Workers Conference did not get in touch with me as you had anticipated. This might be just as well as we are extremely busy.

We were fortunate to secure a third psychiatric social worker who is branching out into neighboring communities. There is one practical problem which gives me much more often a headache than our psychiatric social workers. Naturally I am responsible for everything that happens and we can not avoid accepting quite troublesome problems like fire setters, sex offenders, all kinds of delinquents, etc. Now here is my question: It must have been met by innumerable other people, but I can not find it discussed in the literature, perhaps due to over sight. There is an initial period of four to six weeks until sufficient reports with the parents and children are established and during that very period we can not afford to have anti social relapses because the old fashioned mentalities of police, probation officers, court, etc. would not let us continue to work with these children. How do child analysts who work in public clinics and not in "praxis aurea" handle this technical problem?

I have tried to improvise in the following way that I, myself, in a friendly, authoritative way explain this difficulty directly to the children when they are twelve years old and try to show them why it is in their interest not to disturb the incubation period. Thus I try to leave the psychiatric social workers free from any resentment which probably attract to myself. All this is not quite satisfactory, but we are not living in a metropolitan area where fundamentals are taken for granted. We have to reckon with a skeptic community whose partial good will we can not afford to antagonize.

As I know how busy you are I am perfectly satisfied with a few literature references.

With all good greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Richard D. Loewenberg
Richard D. Loewenberg, M. D.