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# from the editor

It is with pleasure and anticipation that I introduce this first issue of *TRIMS therapy notes* to friends and colleagues in the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

We have long discussed the need for such a publication—something brief and useful, focusing on the needs of departmental clinicians. Several previous commissioners favored the idea, and now, with Dr. John Kavanagh's support, it has evolved from fond fantasy into reality. As scientific editor, I realize that the responsibility is not insignificant, and that the publication must be done with care.

Topics should reflect matters of greatest importance to mental health professionals. The mental sciences probably use more approaches to therapy than does any other branch of medicine. We propose to include each of those disciplines. We hope that many of the topics will be those selected by readers. Articles must also be current, giving a status summary that represents the distilled thinking of the best approaches to treatment.

*TRIMS therapy notes* is not large enough for comprehensive reviews. It must be well written, and as jargon-free as possible. If they are to be useful, our articles must also be well documented, so that readers may turn to the literature to expand their review of a subject. Finally, the articles should be the beginning of a dialogue among departmental treatment personnel, which will result not only in updating of current information but in an enjoyable and useful cross-fertilization of ideas.

Thus *TTN* is proposed as a monthly one-page newsletter. Copy will consist of brief reports of current research, with an annotated bibliography of perhaps half a dozen references for further reading. The mailing list, which has already grown from an anticipated 500 to more than 1,500, was provided us by superintendents and center directors. We are mailing individual copies and bundles, and we welcome requests for additions to the mailing list.

Each month *TTN* will be written by a different *TRIMS* specialist: geriatric psychiatry and gerontology, Dr. Roy V. Varner; psychotherapies, Drs. Mark Valverde, Simon Sobo, and Mohsen Mirabi; psychophysiology, Dr. Neil R. Burch; pharmacotherapy, Drs. Robert C. Smith, James L. Claghorn, and Schoolar; family therapy, Dr. Sergio Henao; child therapy, Dr. Jaime Ganc; psychosomatic issues, Dr. Roy J. Mathew; drug abuse therapy, Dr. Timothy Sharma; alcoholism, Dr. Jack

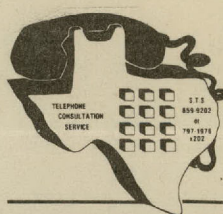
Gordon; behavior therapy, Dr. Jon Reck; mental retardation and developmental disabilities, Dr. Kay R. Lewis; social services, Nancy Wilson, M.S.W.; legal issues, Dr. J. Ray Hays. These clinician-researchers, together with Dr. Gary Sluyter, constitute the editorial board. We may add other topics—for example, prevention of mental illness, violence prevention, standardization of psychological instruments.

Government Documents

SEP 18 1980

859-9202

Dallas Public Library



## telephone consultation

In addition, *TRIMS* is establishing a telephone consultation service. The clinicians listed above have agreed to serve as consultants to any member of the department on issues relating to the consultant's specialty. Dr. Valverde is the psychiatrist responsible for overall management of the service. Anyone desiring consultation or having a point for discussion should call his office at STS number 859-9202. The question will then be referred to the appropriate consultant. Eleanor Lee, a registered nurse and master's level psychologist, will return the call within 24 hours. The question will be researched by the *TRIMS* library; within five working days the caller will receive a computer-generated literature review and copies of relevant articles.

Most frequently asked types of questions may well suggest needed research, point to topics for an article in *TTN*, or a continuing education program.

In beginning these two activities, *TRIMS* is attempting to increase its service to the department. We do this in a cooperative spirit, recognizing that we will gain as much information as we disseminate. Although we are just beginning, we join an illustrious line of therapy newsletters and look forward to the experience.

—Joseph C. Schoolar, Ph.D., M.D.

**TRIMS therapy notes**

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