

ADVISORY EDUCATIONAL GROUP
December 30, 1947

GROUP III - HOW CAN WE STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROFESSIONAL GROUPS?

Miss Jean, Chairman

Dr. Sutton

Dr. Wheatley

Mr. Jones

Dr. Dublin (for the last part of discussion)

MISS JEAN: When you look over the outline which was provided for us for this meeting of organizations in which we are closely working now you just wonder if there is anything left. It seems to cover every phase practically. My own feeling is that we have to do it a little more thoroughly rather than branch it out into more groups.

DR. WHEATLEY: Do you think there are certain organizations which we may decide should be worked more intensively with?

MISS JEAN: The greatest problem we have is to use the administrator.

MR. JONES: We started to do this last year of course with Dr. McClure.

MISS JEAN: Would not that probably be the best thing to discuss because approaching them and sending material is not enough. We have always been able to send them material but it is lost on their desks. How many are in this association?

MR. JONES: The membership is about 9 or 10 thousand school superintendents.

DR. SUTTON: They have been running for 25 years with about 5 or 7 thousand. A good many principals and supervisors are included.

MISS JEAN: Has it ever functioned very effectively? I understand there is a growth and further indications of vitality.

DR. SUTTON: I think it has been a vitalized organization in the country for many years.

MISS JEAN: Who has been the moving spirit in this?

DR. COOPER: Of course, Dr. Shankland was executive secretary for many years.....

MISS JEAN: I don't mean the American Association of School Administrators. I mean the National Council of Chief State School Officers. The thought was that we

might work through this National Council.

DR. SUTTON: That's a very small group.

DR. WHEATLEY: That seems to me more comparable to the State and Territorial Health Officers.

DR. SUTTON: Mr. Collins in Georgia was head of that at one time. I don't think they have any regular executive secretary employed.

MISS JEAN: We understand that the new officers have not yet been appointed. May we take a moment to discuss how we can reach that group. The first thing to do, I think, is to find out the officers and who the most interested individuals are to see how we can function through them. I do not think we can function through them until we know how it is set up.

DR. SUTTON: It has been in existence 15 or 20 years and is made up largely of State superintendents of education and the people in charge of the State health department.

DR. WHEATLEY: Is it a joint committee made up of health and education officials?

DR. SUTTON: No, I am sorry. This is just made up of 48 State superintendents and they each have assistant superintendents and directors. I imagine about 100 people.

MISS JEAN: Would we say that we would consider it desirable to investigate thoroughly before we decide to work with them?

DR. SUTTON: I think that this conference of State School Officers would possibly be in many ways helpful.

MR. JONES: Of course we have been approached by Dr. Morphet.

DR. WHEATLEY: Who is he?

MISS JEAN: He is located in Florida and is a general consultant to this National Council of Chief State School Officers.

DR. WHEATLEY: They have passed one or two good resolutions on school health.

DR. SUTTON: It seems to me that one of the finest things that could be done would be for some member of this Advisory Group or the Staff be furnished by the

Metropolitan to be a kind of liaison person to brush up the interest of members of some such groups. In other words, have some member of this Office have an opportunity to sit down with 3, 4, or 5 members of this kind of organization and talk things over. I think that would get us some place.

MR. JONES

~~MISS JEAN~~: I think most of the State education officers are very familiar with our material. Wouldn't it be more effective to work in just one or two states as an experiment. Then the conclusions we came to could decide whether it would be worthwhile continuing.

 MISS JEAN: May we say that in exploring the possibility of working with this group we consider the possibility of concentrating on a few others, but we do not know this is the right way to do it until we know more about their set-up. I have found in the N.E.A. a set-up to select publications to be sent out to schools in packets and the request came here and to various other organizations asking us to play the game. When I went down to talk it over, I found they didn't have a real representative group to make the decisions as to which materials were desirable and that it was being handled by a commercial concern who was trying to make money on it. Therefore, Miss Williamson and I decided that it was not a thing in which we wanted to participate. I am speaking of this because I think we need to be very sure that when they accept publications of the Metropolitan to send out, they are not going to send it out with anything else. The fact that it is a National Council does not assure us of their good judgment in relation to what they might do to our material. I think we must certainly demonstrate care. Would you agree that we explore the possibility further before taking any action?

AGREED

MISS JEAN: I think the Bureau needs more field work and that the present staff is practical to handle it. There are invitations for speakers, for help in a State like Wisconsin who are even willing to pay the expenses for such a speaker. The Metropolitan if they had one free person who could accept invitations to a greater extent than is possible now would help with our school health programs. These

people are so eager for help and if you could send a staff member to work with them and help them work out plans, it would help tremendously.

DR. SUTTON: This is a wonderful suggestion, but I never have seen, I have been as most of you know with the Reader's Digest, I never have seen people as hungry for real information and how really to do things. They want somebody who knows how. I think a recommendation from us that might not even be carried out this year or the next would be worthwhile that the Metropolitan consider the possibility of someone who would be in the field doing this type of work.

MISS JEAN: Do you all agree? Would it be worthwhile at this time to suggest such a thing?

DR. WHEATLEY: Dr. Armstrong indicated that we are looking for an Assistant for Miss Craig.

MISS JEAN: But that isn't enough. I saw Miss Craig out in the field and she is doing a wonderful job, but while she is doing that she can't do other things that need to be done. She is having to push aside all other things. One person as I see it should be in the field.

DR. WHEATLEY: Why couldn't this assistant be in the field? The point I am trying to make is that we do have a position to fill and I would think that in filling that position we could create time for that person or Miss Craig to carry on more field work.

MISS JEAN: Could we say that a field worker would be most desirable for assistance to this National Council of Chief State School Officers or on any other group in the development of their program?

DR. WHEATLEY: Yes. Use that as an illustration of what a field worker could accomplish.

DR. SUTTON: I would like to suggest--would it be feasible at all--I just had in mind John Bracken who is a fine person in the field of health. Maybe it might be possible to use a person like that who might just with a few visits, not as a

permanent employee, but simply somebody who might sit down with other organizations for a few weeks. It might be possible to include this in the budget. I fully appreciate the value of what Dr. Armstrong said about health examinations that they do things that are experimental and that when it is over it is up to city or the state to take it up.

MISS JEAN: I have known that only 3% of the people are taking advantage of health examinations. Where can you find a doctor to give a good health examination and how can the public afford it? I would like to see us investigate the possibility of really assisting an organization that is concerned with increasing interest in health examinations. We have not made a dent on health examinations in this country and our demonstration here is the best example of it. Isn't it possible for us to approach the A.M.A. to which the company is in close contact both favorably and unfavorably, with the view that we would like to help in increasing interest in health examinations. I would like to see something in our literature which would help to bring the facts to our children in high schools. If we can get them to understand what the health examination means, it would be a great help. My point is that following WHAT TEACHERS SEE which is so popular isn't this the time now for us to do something--that is act with an organization through a new approach on this question of health examinations. Wouldn't it be a good thing as it would be good cooperation with physicians and attempt helping in raising our school health examination schedule planning?

DR. WHEATLEY: Are you thinking of it in terms of school-age population?

MISS JEAN: I think we would have to in terms of school population and particularly of the high school population for which there is so little being done

DR. WHEATLEY: Is this a publication you are visualizing?

MISS JEAN: I was thinking of more than that. My thought would be to have conferences with the A.M.A. to determine what would be needed.

DR. WHEATLEY: I see it as a much bigger problem than you say because the kind of

health examination that is given in the schools is not a very good one. You would have to develop a whole program to educate the physicians and those who will actually be carrying out these services.

MISS JEAN: I don't see that as the School Health Bureau's responsibility. That would be from the Welfare Division as a whole. From the standpoint of the School Health Bureau it would be what we can do in the schools.

DR. WHEATLEY: It is a question of whether you produce something which outlines a desirable type of experience in examinations where it doesn't fall flat. We should prepare the ground and have actually that service available in schools.

MISS JEAN: All right, you take your study that you did and think of the small number of people who have read that book. We are trying to reach all the people in the United States. I am thinking of the something that carries over to the student himself which will interest the student himself.

DR. SUTTON: Your idea is that we would have some kind of publication which would be distributed to the high school students themselves.

MISS JEAN: Yes, you would get at the student himself.

DR. WHEATLEY: You certainly would create a contrast by making them aware of the deficiencies. It is a question of how far you want to go.

DR. SUTTON: You take the student health councils which are organized in almost every state. With them every time is the leading teacher in their schools and if we had a representative in the field they would confer with these groups. Now I think Miss Jean that that kind of thing to begin with might be better than a wholesale thing.

DR. WHEATLEY: I think this idea should be worked out in a limited way in one or two localities.

DR. SUTTON: You take Pennsylvania. That is one of the liveliest wires of officials of high school health.

DR. WHEATLEY: They also have quite an extensive examination program in Pennsylvania's high schools.

DR. SUTTON: I give a series of lectures called "Just a Man" or "Just a Woman". I gave them just the first on the physical side and each one of those boys and girls gave me their name and address and sent comments and some questions they wished to be answered. I never saw such interest in a question of this sort.

MISS JEAN: You spoke about this question of the physician being involved. My feeling is if we can teach the public what the health examination is, the physician is more likely to give it to come up to the standard that the public expects. What I want to do is to give a proper standard to high school students as to what a good health examination is. If we can get the high school students to the stage where they know that a health examination is a urinary analysis, blood pressure, X-ray, etc., then the doctors of the country are going to be more likely to give them that type of examination. Could we say that an attempt be made to stimulate the interest of high school students in health examinations and that a committee explore it with the A.M.A.?

DR. WHEATLEY: I think the logical group would be Dean Smiley's group.

MISS JEAN: The A.M.A. at its meeting with school people & some of the physicians sat there and didn't know the type of school examinations which were being given in many schools. They all thought that a health examination was given to each child every year. They did not know that these examinations were only inspections. This is the time as I see it for the Metropolitan to cooperate with them.

DR. SUTTON: I think it is too. I think we ought to stress that, of course it is up entirely to the Metropolitan and this department as to what they can do, that there is real need for some field person.

DR. WHEATLEY: What kind of training do you think this field person should have?

MISS JEAN: It should definitely be an educator who has a good knowledge of health.

At this point Dr. Dublin sat in on the discussion and Miss Jean brought him up to date on what had already been discussed.

DR. DUBLIN: (referring to health examinations). Of course, it wasn't all due to the methods of people themselves.

MISS JEAN: Is is the poor physician too.

DR. DUBLIN: It bears directly on lack of facilities to do a job and to do it well.

MISS JEAN: When you gave them a chance and with the Metropolitan giving them everything it wasn't done.

DR. DUBLIN: It is equally true that the medical profession resisted this , and later on it was reduced, but it was never more than a luke-warm procedure. Doctors don't like to play with healthy people.

MISS JEAN: Can we add to our recommendations that the youth groups at work in this country should be reached in a greater extent if possible?

DR. WHEATLEY: I think we should keep in mind the possibility of over-selling the idea ~~and~~ of giving the impression that there is a lot more that can be done than we are able to do. I think one of our difficulties is that there isn't a great deal you can offer.....

MISS JEAN: I don't mean examinations with these young groups, I mean health education..

DR. DUBLIN: I think the high school group is the best group on which you can make an impression

At this point the committee meeting was adjourned and met with the other two groups in the Conference Room.