

SUMMARY OF EVENTS - LEXINGTON PROJECT

1. October 23, 1989 - In the process of discussing attendance at a regional H&I learning day to be held in Lexington, KY, George requested me to do some research into the recovery program, based at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Lexington KY, during the years 1947 - 1953 while I am there. Specific focus was to be placed on any mention of N.A., the "Narco" group, and any mention of utilizing the Twelve Step philosophy.
2. November 7, 1989 - did some preliminary, cursory study of two drafts of material relating to the Lexington project and subsequent formations of the various N.A. programs.
3. November 9, 1989 - Contacted Mr. Michael Richer, Executive Assistant at Federal Correctional Facility, Lexington. After explaining the reason for my call, he stated that he will communicate with Dr. Wes Ross, who is the Historian at Lexington, about our request and will contact us during the next ten days. Additionally, he suggested that I may wish to contact the Dep't of Health and Human Services to obtain additional information or sources for such. The HHS department gave me the phone number for the Health Data Bank in Louisiana. The operator at the HDB gave me two additional resource numbers, one for the Addiction Research Library, and the second for Dr. Carl Leukefeld. I contacted both numbers, with the following results: the librarian at the ARL stated that they will research their archives for specific material relating to the Lexington program; Dr. Leukefeld was extremely cooperative and interested in our task. He apparently knows a number of individuals who were either directly or indirectly related to the Lexington project, and promised to contact them to obtain information regarding the project, file locations, and cooperation with us in completing our project. He stated that he will be in touch soon. If he does not contact us by the end of November, I will contact him again. Additionally, I will contact Mr. Richer of FCI Lexington, and the librarian at the ARL within the next ten days.
4. November 16, 1989 - Conversation with Dr. Leukefeld
He provided two references and a couple of facts; he's still looking and he's very excited about it. References:
 1. Journal article, by Fraser Frank & Grider J.A., titled "Treatment of Drug Addiction," in the *American Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 14, pages 571-577. (1953) Talks about Addicts Anonymous and how it was first organized at Lexington Hospital. May be a paragraph or two that you find helpful.
 2. Another article may be harder to find. Authored by Bob Rasor, entitled "The Institutional Treatment of the Narcotic Addict," from the *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association*, Vol. 6, pages 11-14. (1965)Most of the people that were around Lexington Hospital in the 1940's have died. However, Dr. Leukefeld has learned that there was a correctional person keeping track of all those types of records.
He also learned that the medical and professional staff kind of left the Addicts Anonymous groups alone. They were not encouraged to become involved. Those are the kinds of things that, as self-help groups go, should be the responsibility of the people there, not the professionals. Kind of verifies that Addicts Anonymous, later to become Narcotics Anonymous in New York City, started in Lexington.
Spoke with Leukefeld once again and set up meeting with him for December 14, 1989, at his office in Rockville.

5. November 16, 1989 - Conversation with Dr. Wes Ross, FCI Lexington Confirmed that Addicts Anonymous was still in place when he started working at Lexington in 1958, but believes that it was all together with Alcoholics Anonymous. Further believes that all program files were either destroyed or transferred to Dep't. of HEW in Washington. Contacted HHS again and was transferred to the History of Medicine Library in Rockville, MD. The library has a considerable amount of material on Lexington and it is available to be seen at any time. Attempted to contact the librarian at the ARL, to no avail, will try again.

6. November 23, 1989 - Contacted Mary Pfeiffer, librarian at the ARL. She stated that she had several articles from the Lexington Hospital, and is familiar with the project. Made appointment to see her December 13th. Also contacted History of Medicine Library and was able to ascertain that they also had a considerable amount of material, either in their library or the National Library of Medicine, next door. Set up appointment for December to stop in.

7. December 6, 1989 - Contacted CSUN library to verify whether or not they had the articles described by Leukefeld. They had the one by Fraser and Grider, but did not have the more obscure one mentioned. Went to library with the following results:

"Treatment of Drug Addiction," H.F. Fraser, and J.A. Grider, Lexington KY, *American Journal of Medicine*, Vol 14, May 1953, 571-577.

Article presented a treatise on treatment of addiction, with the majority of the material concentrating on various psychotherapeutic treatment procedures and modalities. There are two brief mentions of "Addicts Anonymous" on page 575. At that point, the article states that in addition to the various types of treatment modalities, participation in Addicts Anonymous is recommended. "Addicts Anonymous was first organized by the patients at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky. Participation in this program yields a type of mutual support and acceptance that some addicts are able to utilize whereas insight psychotherapy may be unacceptable. It has been the experience of the Lexington Hospital that Addicts Anonymous has contributed significantly to better institutional adjustment. Many discharged addicts later identify themselves with their local "chapter" of Alcoholic and Addict Anonymous." In the bibliography to this treatise, there is mention of two articles by Dr. Victor H. Vogel, Medical Officer in Charge of the U.S.P.H.S. Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky. See below for specifics on these two articles.

"Treatment of the narcotic addict by the Public Health Service," V. H. Vogel, Lexington, KY, *Federal Probation*, 12 (2) June, 1948.

Majority of this article is statistical in nature, however, there are two pertinent paragraphs: "Worthy of special mention is the great interest shown by a group of sincere patients in developing an association in the hospital known as "Addicts Anonymous." Patterned after the successful Alcoholics Anonymous, members of the latter organization from Lexington and Frankfort have developed the hospital chapter to the point where responsible leadership from among the patients is available. A secretary has been designated to handle the affairs of the organization and to publish inspirational material for the institutional use of members. A number of patients who have relapsed and have been readmitted for treatment again have left and, with the help of local chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous in their home towns, are apparently making successful adjustments. There is enough similarity between the personalities and problems of alcoholics and drug addicts to indicate that what has been helpful with the first group may well be helpful with the second. The development of the experimental chapter of Addicts Anonymous at the Lexington hospital will be observed with great interest."

8. December 13, 1989 - First stop is Addiction Research Library, Baltimore, MD. Spoke with Mary Pfeiffer, and, while she was extremely cooperative, the vast majority of the stack she had handed me was concerned with clinical and medical research issues surrounding the Lexington Hospital. Came away with an annotated bibliography of articles generated from the U.S.P.H.S. Hospital in Lexington, and not much else. Next, I went to the History of Medicine Library in Bethesda, MD. Spoke with Peter Hirtle, librarian, about the type of material we were interested in. Once again, while he was extremely cooperative, the material I looked through was not germane to our search. Next door, at the National Library of Medicine, I was able to find some relevant articles by Vogel, Maddux, Rasor. et al, but the information contained therein was virtually identical to the Fraser, Grider article mentioned above. However, there was one interesting fact that came up, that is that shortly, six to nine months, after the start of Addicts Anonymous in Lexington, a similar group was started in the U.S. Narcotics Farm, Ft. Worth, TX. Apparently the administration at Ft. Worth was so enthused about the program at Lexington, they decided to institute it at Ft. Worth.

9. December 14, 1989 - Spent the majority of the morning talking with various folks involved in civil service such as: Eloise South of the National Archives; Dolores Christie, Linda Querec, Jackie Porter, et al of the Washington National Record Center; with little or no results. Ran into numerous difficulties as a result of the Privacy Act, as well as the fact that the majority of the files handled by the National Record Center were of the patients themselves, and therefore not really useful for our purposes. There was one highlight however: in speaking with Eloise South, she mentioned that there may in fact be some files located at the South-East Regional Archives, Atlanta, GA, and asked me to contact Gayle Peters. In speaking with Mr. Peters, I found out that they in fact had 4.4 cubic feet of material relating to the Lexington Project, dating from 1929 to 1973. More specifically, he estimated that at least one cubic feet of material related directly to the 1946 - 1953 period, and consisted mainly of notes, documentation and correspondence.

That same afternoon, I met with Dr. Carl Leukefeld, Ph.D. of NIDA in Rockville, MD. During our conversation it became apparent that he spent a small amount of time at Lexington himself, but was extremely knowledgeable about the various programs started and/or implemented there. Through him the following information became available:

* Dr. James Maddux, who was in charge of the Ft. Worth site at the same time that Dr. Vogel was in charge of Lexington, was alive and still working at the University of Texas Medical Center. He would be an excellent person to contact to obtain first hand information regarding the Addicts Anonymous program in the Ft. Worth site.

* Sherman Kiefer an assistant to a Mr. Owsley, the head of security for the Lexington Hospital, may still be alive and living in Boca Raton Fla. Leukefeld felt that Kiefer may also be an excellent source as the security people seemed to know more about what was going on with patients than some of the other staff.

* Jim Moore, a retired P.H.S. officer, was still living in Lexington and apparently very much involved with other former staff members of the Lexington hospital.

* Vogel, after he left Lexington, came to California and helped to start the California Rehabilitation Center at Norco, in fact was their first medical director. Leukefeld believes that with our contact with the California department of Corrections, we may be able to find out where Vogel's surviving family members are living, as they may have archival correspondence material from him still in an attic or other location.

* Finally, he believes that the term the Narco group, was coined by the patients themselves, with program itself being called Addicts Anonymous virtually from the very start of it. He did not know where we may be able to find some copies of *The Key*, which was apparently one of the newsletters printed by the members of the Addicts Anonymous program in Lexington. He further believes that the Louisiana group started as an offshoot of Ft. Worth.

That evening, I called Jim Moore in Lexington, hoping to meet with him while I was in Lexington. After informing me that he would be out of town that weekend, he was very helpful and gave the following information:

* He worked at Lexington from 1957 through 1973, and while he does remember the patients holding meetings themselves, he was not able to give any information on how its was started or run. He did however confirm that the security people involved would have much more information.

* There are still a considerable number of former employees of the Lexington Hospital alive and well, in fact they hold an annual picnic (called the Narco picnic) every July. He suggested that we contact Mrs. F.L. Brothers to find out about a mailing list and time and place for the next get-together.

* His final suggestion was to get copies of the *Bluegrass Times*, as that was the main paper published internally at the hospital, and he feels that it would contain a considerable amount of the information we are looking for.

10. December 15, 1989 - spent the morning trying to obtain more information from the National archives, Library of Congress, etc. about specific articles, etc. without any success.