

The Residence Programme

MPA houses are doing a better job than we dared to imagine. Only 10% of the resident population returned to hospital last year, which is an excellent record compared to other programs we have read about. Not counted were brief rehospitalizations like an overnight or several day's stay. Hospital readmission statistics were based on those whose hospitalization caused them to give up residence in an MPA house.

The readmission rate was much higher for people who went from the community into hospital: 64% of those who were admitted to Health Sciences Hospital in 1974 were readmissions. 63.7% at Riverview were repeaters in 1974; 61.9% in 1975.

Cost per day of hospital beds continues to climb. Health Sciences is now \$101.65; St Pauls is \$121.20 and Vancouver General is \$124.50 per day.

By way of comparison we worked out the daily operating expenses of MPA houses and found that the cost is \$9.01 per person. When the house income of \$90 per resident per month is subtracted the per diem rate is \$6.40. Not counting coordinators' salaries the rate is only .85 per day.

The conclusion that we hope Health Minister McClelland and Human Resources Minister Vander Zalm draw from these figures is that MPA houses are saving the provincial government a large sum of money. And this is the argument MPA is using in trying to obtain funding when L.E.A.P. funds run out next July. It's also the basis upon which we are trying to expand our residence program through the Ad Hoc Committee proposal, to include two more houses and four more residence coordinator's salaries

BEFORE:



AFTER:



M.P.A.'s Residence Program

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As of July 1, 1976, M.P.A.'s five houses began operating as part of the Vancouver Resources Board Personal Care Program. This program provides funding for people on Social Assistance, H.P.I.A. and other forms of income who live in our houses. This funding is on a per diem basis and is a responsibility of the provincial Dept. Of Human Resources.

This new program brings with it certain changes. These changes include the creation of a new position at M.P.A. called the Housing Coordinator; the registration of new people moving into the houses with the Health and Special Care office of the Vancouver Resources Board at 1675 West 10th Ave. and the keeping of a set of records on the houses to properly evaluate the residence program by M.P.A.

Let's follow an imaginary new resident through this new process to discover what happens. Jim Smith will be

the name of our imaginary new resident.

Jim Smith comes to the Drop-In Centre one day and finds out that there is a vacancy for a man at the West 10th house. At this point he is advised to go over to the house and meet the people there so that they have a chance to get to know him. He does this for several days and on the day of the weekly house meeting he is voted in. What happens next?

The residence coordinator then takes down the following information: name, birthday, date of moving in, and the person's basic income source, whether or not the person is on V.I.P. or receives a dietary allowance.

Next day the residence coordinator arranges for Jim to go to the Health and Special Care office of the V.R.B. to see Katherine Sanford. This office doesn't look like a welfare office but it very much is one. So

Jim comes down the next day and gets registered on the program. All Jim's financial needs are taken care of through this office as long as he is in one of our houses.

If, at the time he registers he needs some money to tide him over until the end of the month, he can get an advance on his monthly comforts allowance. He can also ask about a V.I.P. placement through her office. At this point, Jim is both officially in the house and on the program.

What happens next? Well, Jim is in the house and settling in, and the next part of the process starts. The residence coordinator who took the information noted previously then passes this information on to the Housing Coordinator. The Housing Coordinator receives this and similar information from the other residence coordinators which he then checks with Katherine Sanford once a week, as well as

giving her the vacancies for our houses. This information is then used by the Housing Coordinator to ensure that M.P.A. will be paid the correct amount for each person in our houses, and to ensure that each person is receiving the proper amount of money due him or her at the end of the month.

When Jim Smith decides to leave the house, he has to give a week's notice to the house and the residence coordinator. He then goes and finds another place to live. When he has done this he then goes to the local Community Resources Board office of the area he is moving into and applies for welfare.

The residence coordinator then passes on the information to the Housing Coordinator that Jim has left the house and he then notifies the V.R.B. of this fact, and proceeds to work out the amount owed M.P.A. by the V.R.B. and Jim has moved into the community.