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Record Group 220: President's Commission on Mental Health: A Guide to Its Records at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: President's Commission on Mental Health

Title: Record Group 220: President's Commission on Mental Health

Dates: 2/1977-12/1978

Quantity: 12 linear feet, 8 linear inches, 27 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 80-01

National Archives Identifier: 547

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of biographical information, fact sheets, schedules, participant lists, briefing notes, summaries, papers, correspondence, itineraries, agendas, meeting minutes, reports, testimony transcripts, and background materials. These materials represent the functions of the President's Commission on Mental Health, established by Executive Order No. 11973, and signed by President Carter on February 17, 1977.

The Commission was concerned with a number of topics and sought to identify:

- 1) How the mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, and mentally retarded are being served, to what extent they are being underserved, and who is affected by such under service.
- 2) The projected needs for dealing with emotional stress during the next twenty-five years.
- 3) The various ways the President, the Congress, and the Federal Government may most efficiently support the treatment of the underserved mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, and mentally retarded.
- 4) Various methods for coordinating a unified approach to all mental health and people-helping services.

5) The types of research the Federal Government should support to further the prevention and treatment of mental illness and mental retardation.

6) What role the various educational systems, volunteer agencies and other people-helping institutions can perform to minimize emotional disturbance in our country.

7) As nearly as possible, what programs will cost, when the money should be spent, and how financing should be divided among Federal, State and local governments, and the private sector.

Creator Information: President's Commission on Mental Health

The President's Commission on Mental Health was established as an ad hoc presidential advisory commission by E. O. 11973 on February 17, 1977. The Commission was composed of 20 members appointed by the President: The commission was composed of Honorary Chairperson, Rosalynn Carter and the following twenty commissioners:

Thomas E. Bryant, Chairperson
Ruth B. Love, Vice-Chairperson
Priscilla Allen
Allan Beigel
Jose A. Cabranes
John J. Conger
Thomas Conan
Virginia Dayton
LaDonna Harris
Beverly Long
Florence Mahoney
Martha L. Mitchell
Mildred Mitchell-Bateman
Harold Richman
Julius B. Richmond
Reymundo Rodriquez
George Tarjan
Franklin E. Vilas, Jr.
Glenn E. Watts
Charles V. Willie

They were selected for their expertise in the fields of medicine, mental health care, mental health administration, and consumer rights in the field of mental health. The Commission investigated availability, cost, and shortcomings of mental health services in the United States. Along with formal categories of mental illness, the Commission also studied societal stress in modern times, the problems of Vietnam War veterans, mental retardation, and mental troubles of minorities and the aged. It asked questions on what amounts of aid should be furnished by Federal, state, local and private agencies, the needs of the next 25 years, and how the needed programs would be funded.

The Commission explored these topics by means of task panels which were composed of about 450 volunteers recruited from all over the country. These groups investigated the nature and scope of mental health; community support systems; mental health service delivery including medical personnel, access, barriers, costs and the financing of adequate systems; mental health considerations as they affect American families with special consideration given to the needs of children, adults, and the elderly; the mental health needs of ethnic and racial minorities, women, and the physically handicapped; the mental health problems of Vietnam era veterans; legal and ethical issues involved in the safeguarding of mental health; research into the cause of mental illness and efforts at the prevention of mental health problems; public attitudes and the use of the media for the promotion of mental health; arts in therapy and the environment; mental retardation; and psychiatric drug use/misuse.

The Commission summarized its findings in a four volume report. Volume I was an overall report, with recommendations to the President. Volumes II through IV were appendices containing reports of the various panels under the Commission on Mental Health. The Commission was abolished by E.O. 12110, December 28, 1978.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor's deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc.). Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material:

Related materials in this repository: First Lady's Office; White House Central Files – Subject Files, Health, Mental Health; Kathy Cade's Project Files

Separated material: Audio-visual materials from this collection have been transferred to the Library's audio-visual department. [A listing of these items is provided at the end of this finding aid.](#)

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Thomas E. Bryant (Chair), Ruth B. Love (Vice-Chair), Julius B. Richmond (Ex-Officio), Rosalynn Carter

Organizations: United States Congress

Subjects: Mental health, mental retardation, veterans, youth, aged

Places: Washington, D.C., San Francisco, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Nashville, Tennessee; Tucson, Arizona, Chicago, Illinois

Types of Material: Biographical information, fact sheets, schedules, lists, briefing notes, summaries, papers, correspondence, itineraries, agendas, meeting transcripts, reports, testimony, background materials,

Administrative Information:

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Jimmy Carter signed January 31, 1981.

Processing information: The first series of the collection was opened on January 28, 1987. Subsequent series in the collection were opened on January 28, 1987. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the President's Commission on Mental Health are divided into 8 series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Background and History Files</u>	136594
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Meetings Files</u>	136596
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Public Hearings Files</u>	136643
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Commissioner's Files</u>	136699
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Correspondence Files</u>	136725
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Press Releases Files</u>	136748
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Published Reports Files</u>	136750
<u>President's Commission on Mental Health Audiovisual Files</u>	596722

Detailed Description of the Collection

[President's Commission on Mental Health Background and History Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 1. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of the statement establishing the Commission, its goals and accomplishments, the Executive Order establishing the Commission, fact sheets prepared by the First Lady's Press Secretary, biographical sketches on the Commissioners, meeting schedules, and lists for task panels. Arranged chronologically.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Meetings Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 1-9. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of Presidential remarks at the initial meeting, background papers, briefing notes, papers

and summaries of work groups, correspondence, attendance lists, itineraries, agendas, transcripts, and preliminary and draft reports of the task panels. Arranged chronologically by meeting date.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Public Hearings Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 10-19. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of agendas, transcripts, testimony summaries, supplemental testimony, background materials, exhibits, correspondence, registration lists, lists of volunteers, lists of persons requesting identification cards to testify, and demographic reports on areas where hearing were held. Arranged chronologically.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Commissioner's Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 20-21. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of selected informational letters that were sent to Commissioners, resumes, biographical data, and correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Correspondence Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 22-24. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of official outgoing correspondence regarding Commission aims, goals, concerns, and responses to inquiries. Arranged chronologically.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Press Releases Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 25. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of press announcements about Commission meetings and activities, and the First Lady's role as honorary Chairwoman. Arranged chronologically.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Published Reports Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 25-26. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series consists of the Report to the President and Task Panel Reports which include findings and assessments regarding: community support, improving service systems and personnel, preventative strategies, improving public understanding, nature and scope of problems, treatment facilities, and the needs of families, special age groups, minorities, handicapped, and women. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

[President's Commission on Mental Health Audiovisual Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 27. This series was opened on January 28, 1987. This series contains photographs and reel to reel sound recordings of meetings. The entire series has been transferred to the Libraries audio-visual department. [A list of the transferred material can be found at the end of this finding aid.](#)

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Container List

President's Commission on Mental Health Background and History

Container 1

Historical Outline, 1977-1978

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President's Commission on Mental Health Meetings Files

Gathering at White House, 3/29/77

Chicago, Illinois, 4/19/77 [1]

Chicago, Illinois, 4/19/77 [2]

San Francisco, California, 6/22/77

Washington, 7/11/77-7/12/77 [1]

Washington, 7/11/77-7/12/77 [2]

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Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [2]

Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [3]

Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [4]

Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [5]

Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [6]

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Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [7]

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Washington, 8/2/77-8/3/77 [9]

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Container 4

Washington, 10/14/77-10/15/77 [2]

Washington, 10/14/77-10/15/77 [3]

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Washington, 12/9/77-12/10/77 [1]

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Nashville, 5/25/77 [1]
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Tucson, 6/20/77 [17]
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Container 17

San Francisco, 6/21/77 [1]
San Francisco, 6/21/77 [2]
San Francisco, 6/21/77 [3]
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Container 18

San Francisco, 6/21/77 [6]
San Francisco, 6/21/77 [7]
San Francisco, 6/21/77 [8]
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San Francisco, 6/21/77 [13]
San Francisco, 6/21/77 [14]
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San Francisco, 6/21/77 [18]

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President's Commission on Mental Health Commissioners' Files

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Federal Register Announcements, 4/5/77-2/24/78
Staff Statistical Background Papers
General Master Lists
Allen, Priscilla
Beigel, Allan, M.D.
Bryant, Chairman Thomas E., M.D.
Cabranes, Jose
Conger, John J.

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Conlan, Thomas
Dayton, Virginia
Harris, La Donna
Long, Beverly
Love, Ruth
Mahoney, Florence
Mitchell-Bateman, Mildred
Mitchell, Martha
Richman, Harold
Richmond, Julius B., M.D.
Rodriguez, Reymundo
Tarjan, George, M.D.
Vilas, Franklin E., Jr.
Watts, Glenn E.
Willie, Charles V.

Master File Material Sent to All Commissioners

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President's Commission on Mental Health Correspondence Files

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Congressional Letters

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President's Commission on Mental Health Press Releases Files

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President's Commission on Mental Health Published Reports Files

Report to the President from the President's Commission on Mental Health, 1978, Volume 1
Task Panel Reports Submitted to the President's Commission on Mental Health, 1978, Volume 2

Task Panel Reports Submitted to the President's Commission on Mental Health, 1978, Volume 3

Container 26

Task Panel Reports Submitted to the President's Commission on Mental Health, 1978, Volume 4
Audio Visual Transfer Sheets

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President's Commission on Mental Health Audiovisual Files

Container 27

Audiovisual File:

The following material was withdrawn from this segment of the collection and transferred to the Audio Visual Department.

36 black and white glossy photographs of Commission members, some posed with First Lady, Rosalynn Carter

- 2 2 ½' x 3 ½'s of Priscilla Allen
- 8 x 10's of Priscilla Allen and Rosalynn Carter
- 8 x 10's of Allan Beigel, M.D.
- 5 x 7's of Allan Beigel, M.D.
- 2 ½' x 3 ½ of Allan Beigel, M.D.
- 8 x 10 of Jose Cabranes
- 5 x 7's of John J. Conger
- 2 x 3's of John J. Conger
- 8 x 10 of Thomas Conlan and Rosalynn Carter
- 8 x 10 of Virginia Dayton and Rosalynn Carter
- 8 x 10 of Beverly Long and Rosalynn Carter
- 4 ½' x 6 ½ of Ruth B. Love
- 8 x 10's of Mildred Mitchell-Bateman, M.D.
- 2 x 3's of Martha Mitchell
- 2 8 x 10 of Harold Richman
- 8 x 10 of Julius B. Richmond and Rosalynn Carter
- 5 x 7 of Julius B. Richmond
- 8 x 10 of Reymundo Rodriguez
- 5 x 7's of George Tarjan, M.D.
- 5 x 7's of Rev. Franklin E. Vilas. Jr.
- 8 x 10's of Glenn E. Watts
- 5 x 7's of Charles V. Willie
- reel-to-reel (1 7/8 ips) sound recordings of Tucson Hearing, 6/20/77 from President's Commission on Mental Health, Numbered: Tape 1 and Tape 2

- reel-to-reel (3 3/4 ips) sound recordings labeled President's Commission on Mental Health, Washington, D.C. meeting, Monday July 11, 1977, Room 540; Numbered: Tape #1 and Tape #2
- 1 reel-to-reel (1 7/8 ips) sound recording labeled President's Commission on Mental Health, Washington, D.C. meeting, Tuesday July 12, 1977, Room 543, 2 morning meetings; Numbered: Tape #1
- 1 reel-to-reel (3 3/4 ips) sound recording labeled President's Commission on Mental Health, Washington, D.C. meeting, Tuesday July 12, 1977, Room 540; Numbered: Tape #1
- 1 reel-to-reel (7") sound recording labeled: President's Commission on Mental Health Room 321 - 7/12
- reel-to-reel (3 3/4 ips) sound recordings labeled President's Commission on Mental Health,
- Public Hearing, Philadelphia, PA May 24, 1977; Numbered: Tape 1 9:38-11:30 a.m.; Tape 2 11:35- ; Tape 3 2:05-

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