

type activities, rather than separate the kids so all activities have to happen in one room.

"We do think it's important to have some separate activities for younger and older

children, and yet do not qualify under the present terms.

It is equally true that people could graduate from the course and not be able to relate their studies to the actual situations encountered daily with children.

permit for 30 children, 12 of whom are under three. This is the first recognition by the Board that under threes attend South Hill.

The permit was granted with a long list of conditions, most of which South Hill has agreed

"special treatment" they received. Since its inception, the centre has been a thorn in the government's side. SOUTH Hill has introduced many innovations, such as hot lunches, parental control, evening and part-time care, and equal pay

made by this government. Whatever the outcome of the court case, South Hill hopes it contributes to the erosion of state control and helps to put that control in the hands of parents and communities who are directly involved in child-care.

Proposed budget turned down

Mental health citizen committee

ignored

by Sue Conrad

The Coordinating Committee of the Greater Vancouver Mental Health Project in a meeting at City Hall has turned thumbs down on a proposed budget prepared by the Kitsilano Citizens' Committee. The Committee, formed to ensure adequate citizen participation in the mental health team being proposed for the area, had spent considerable time getting the budget together, and a spokesperson for the group expressed displeasure at the treatment accorded the delegation which went to the Coordinating Committee meeting to formally present the budget.

"The atmosphere was cold, all right", said the spokesperson. "We weren't even invited to sit around the table with the C.C. members, but clustered against the wall by ourselves."

The budget, totally some \$250,000 in funds, lays out the citizens' conception of what a mental health team should look like. Though different in form from the purely medical model brought in for other areas, it is a compromise budget.

Its main features include equalized salaries for mental health workers, a 24 hour drop-in center for the Kits area, and as an adjunct, a short-stay crisis residence. A third aspect, long-term hostels, was held out of the budget for fear of adverse reaction on the part of the Coordinating Committee.

Dr. John Kyle, executive director of the project and a member of the C.C. remained silent throughout the meeting letting other committee members detail their objections to the proposed budget.

Dr. John Cumming, the man whose report spawned the mental health team concept in local areas, was visibly shaken. He listed 5 main objections he had to the budget:

(1) a hostel for the Kits area alone would cater to only about 50 people a year.

(2) the demand would be too low to justify a 24 hour drop-in centre.

(3) given the number of workers, the supervisory staff allotted in the budget was too few.

(4) the "general expenses" section was unwarranted and

high.

(5) equalized salaries for the workers would cause an administrative nightmare, and reiterated the need for uniformity throughout the Vancouver region.

Dr. Coates, formerly of River-view Home Treatment and now looking for work somewhere in the Project, was more to the point. He called the budget anti-professional and confrontational.

A spokesman for the Kits Citizens Committee refuted these points.

"First of all", he said, "Kitsilano needs a drop-in as an integral part of this plan. I don't know where Dr. Cumming gets his figures, but let him go out on the streets at two in the morning and see if a drop-in wouldn't be in demand here."

"Secondly, we are trying to create a more human approach to mental health and get away from the drug therapy routine. This necessarily means treating problems in a different manner from before. We need general expenses to help people in emergency situations where they are hungry or can't get a

babysitter when they're cracking up. These things do happen, contrary to what Dr. Cumming thinks.

"Finally," said the spokesperson, "the whole idea behind equalized salaries for the worker (but not the Administrator, who earns \$5000 more - ed.) is to do away with the false distinctions that arise by the rigid job descriptions used elsewhere in the civil service."

CITIZENS COMMITTEE BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE

Members of the Kits Committee are disturbed over a number of rumours being spread designed to undermine their credibility.

These have included MPA-baiting (accusing the Committee of being dominated by members of the Mental Patients Assoc.)

Butch Leslie, in his statement to the Coordinating Committee, pointed out that only two of eight elected representatives on Standing Committees are from MPA. While their work has been notable, he said, their

presence is easily countered by other members who include a psychiatrist, a child-care worker, a youth worker, a businessman, a postman, and an unemployed mental health worker.

"If anything", said Mr. Leslie, "we can be criticized for having too many agency people on the Committee. We've got to become even more representative."

Another rumour that has come to the attention of the Committee is the formation of a dissident splinter group in Kitsilano.

"If there is one," said Jeff Marvin, a member of the Steering Committee, "we haven't seen or heard from them. We'd really like to, so we could invite them to our next meeting to see for themselves what we are about."

The Citizens' Committee thus far has operated in a democratic manner, with an elected steering Committee and Personnel Committee.

They have announced a large public meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Kits United Church. Everyone is welcome.