

August 1, 1962

Dr. George A. Ulett
Acting Director
Division of Mental Diseases
722 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, Missouri



Dear Dr. Ulett:

This refers to your letter of June 7, 1962, and our subsequent conversations, concerning the operation of a work-study program in the field of social work in connection with institutions within the Division of Mental Diseases.

It is our understanding that this program contemplates the following facts: A state hospital employs a person as a Social Work Intern I (an unclassified position under the merit system) at a salary of \$320 per month. Such person commences work in June (or possibly later in the summer) and works on a full time basis and receives full pay until September. From September through May, he is enrolled for graduate training in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri (or some other recognized school in this field) and devotes half time to academic studies. During this period, he works half time and receives half pay from the employing hospital. Such work may be done at the employing hospital or another institution in the Division of Mental Diseases or, in order to give the employee broader experience, he may be assigned to work for another state agency (e.g.; in a welfare office). This work serves as part of the educational program.

During the following June and July, the employee works full time and receives full pay at the employing hospital. On August 1, the employee begins what is termed his "block assignment," which is full time work in a state agency but constitutes part of the educational program. This continues

through January and the employee (who is promoted to Social Work Interne II with a \$335 per month salary at the beginning of the second year) receives his full salary from the employing hospital. As in the case of the first year work, the employee's assignment is not necessarily at the employing hospital or another institution in the Division of Mental Diseases but, instead, may be at some other state agency. From February until his graduation in June, the employee is on leave, and receives no pay, while he devotes full time to academic studies at the School of Social Work.

This program leads to a master's degree in social work. A person participating in the program is committed to work as a social worker in an institution within the Division of Mental Diseases for two years after his graduation. Under work-study programs conducted by other state agencies, persons employed and paid by such agencies are assigned to work in state hospitals as part of such programs.

This is to advise you that we see no legal objection to the operation of a work-study program such as is described above in connection with institutions within the Division of Mental Diseases.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS F. EAGLETON
Attorney General

JCB lc