Mrs. Jewell Lowe Elected Health Center President

Mrs. Jewell Parker Lowe has been elected president of the Acadia Mental Health Center board of directors. Other new officers and members of the executive committee have also been chosen.

To serve with Mrs. Lowe are Dr. Edward Harrell, vice president; Dr. Ernest Young, secretary; W.K. Rainbolt, treasurer, and J. Barry Mouton, attorney.

Members of the executive committee are Dr. William E. McCray, Dr. Sidney Dupuy, and Dr. Emilie Ventre.

The board of directors serves as a liaison with the community and makes known the needs of the mental health center. It attempts to meet the community's needs.

Established in 1955

The Acadia Mental Health Center was established originally as the Lafayette Mental Health Center in 1955 as an outpatient unit of the Central Louisiana State Hospital at Pineville.

The unit, the first of its type in the country, proved successful and others were established in every major Louisiana city, officers said.

The first center was housed in a converted ambulance garage at Lafayette Charity Hospital, but with the help of civic-minded citizens and the board of directors, then headed by Mrs. Lowe, the present mental health building was constructed in 1961.

Units Are Joined

The Evangeline Area Guidance Center became administratively connected with the center in 1965. The resulting expanded services have made the present center inadequate and plans are underway to obtain a larger facility, it was explained.

Officers reported that 2,000 active patients are now being treated by the adult unit. Treatments include chemotherapy, individual and group therapy, marriage counseling, occupational therapy, and a treatment program for young people involved with drugs.

A program of satellite units has been started. A unit travels twice weekly to Opelousas and another unit will shortly serve the New Iberia and Abbeville area.

Kenneth Purcell is medical director; Albert W. Viguerie is administrator, and Warren McGovern is chief psychologist. Also on the staff are psychiatrists, physicians, psychologists, social workers, counselors, nurses, occupational therapists, clerical workers, and custodial personnel.

Board Members

The center is a unit of the state department of hospitals and is at 324 Brook Avenue, Lafayette.

In addition to the four officers, the following are members of the center board: F.S. Brousard, Dr. Emilie Ventre, Walter Schroeder, John Hutchinson, Dr. Henry Voorhees, Thomas Pearse, Dr. William C. McCray, Herbert Hoymann, J.J. Davidson III, Dr. Sid Dupuy, Kenneth Bowen, Msgr. H. Alexander Larocque, Arthur J. Broussard, Dr. Ralph Bourgeois, Dr. Dan Voorhees, Dr. John Fisher, Dr. J.T. Briere, all of Lafayette, Ward Tilley, New Iberia and Charles Fuselier, St. Martinville.

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