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TRANSFER BULLETIN



Ontario

Queen Street Mental
Health Centre

SPECIAL EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE IS A FACT SHEET,
PREPARED FOR RELEASE BY THE MINISTER'S
OFFICE, THROUGH THE COMMUNICATIONS
BRANCH, OUTLINING THE PROCESS OF
CLOSURE FOR LAKESHORE PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL.



Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

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FACT SHEET CONCERNING CLOSURE
OF LAKESHORE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

- Recognition of the changing methods in psychiatric treatment prompted a re-examination of the outmoded facilities; of the needs of patients; and of the needs of the areas served by the Lakeshore facility.
- In-patient population at Lakeshore Hospital is declining despite population growth in the area. This is due to the shifting emphasis in psychiatric treatment toward out-patient programs and psychiatric units in general hospitals.
- Based on this change in treatment methods, there is a pressing need for more dollars for out-patient services.
- After the September 1979 closure of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, there will be savings of \$2.6 million in 1979/80. The Ministry of Health has committed half of this money (\$1.3 million) to expansion of out-patient services in the communities previously served by Lakeshore.
- Out-patient services will be spread more evenly throughout the communities served for the convenience of patients and their families.
- The quality of care of in-patients will be maintained by the transfer of the patients to the more modern facilities at Queen Street.
- A substantial number of newly renovated and unused beds has become available at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre as a result of a recent \$41 million renovation. These include 216 new beds plus a present vacancy rate of 76 beds. (As patients recover and are discharged the day-to-day vacancy rate will vary slightly).
- Additionally, 100 vacant beds exist on average at Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital.
- The buildings at Lakeshore are 89 years old and consist of large wards with little privacy, in antiquated surroundings. The top floors of three of the buildings have been declared closed by the fire department and are unusable.

- Immediate renovations at Lakeshore would have cost \$2.5 million. Estimates for the complete rebuilding of the facilities to bring them up to acceptable standards ranged from \$22 million to more than \$30 million.
- Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital serves the borough of Etobicoke, the regional municipality of Peel and the western portion of North York. The present site in south-east Etobicoke is not central to the service area. Replacement of the hospital therefore would have indicated a move to a more central location.
- Closure of Lakeshore will result in annual savings of \$6 million in operating costs after 1979/80. As indicated a portion of these savings will be used to increase out-patient programs.

How Does the Closure Affect In-Patients?

- There are sufficient beds at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre to house the in-patients from Lakeshore in superior facilities.
- In fact, there are 632 beds available at Queen Street for in-patient treatment. With some relocation of wards a total of 292 hospital beds are available to accommodate Lakeshore patients.
- As of April 6, there are 146 patients at Lakeshore who will be moved to Queen Street. As patients recover and are discharged the number of patients at Lakeshore scheduled to move will be reduced.
- A gradual and phased transfer of patients to Queen Street is now under way.
- The Lakeshore Unit that formerly served North York has been moved to Queen Street; dates are being established to transfer in-patients from Etobicoke and Peel to Queen Street. So a total of 40 patients have already been moved to Queen Street. Additionally, six patients have been transferred to Hamilton Psychiatric and two to Whitby Psychiatric.
- In addition to the 146 patients at Lakeshore who will be moved to Queen Street, there are 46 beds (as of April 4, 33 were occupied) used for the Alcohol Unit and 26 beds (as of April 4, 25 were occupied) used for the Mentally Retarded Unit. These patients will not be moved to Queen Street.

How Does the Closure Affect Out-Patients?

- Half of the \$2.6 million savings resulting in 1979/80 from the closure of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital will be made available to develop and expand community mental health programs and services for out-patients, in line with the increasing emphasis on out-patient treatment in modern psychiatric care methods.

- This \$1.3 million will be spent on projects identified by the communities affected as having top priority and value in their areas. An out-patient committee was set up, immediately after the January closure announcement, to study additional out-patient proposals being formulated by various agencies in North York, Etobicoke and Peel Region.
- At Lakeshore today, there are a number of excellent out-patient mental health programs in operation such as the DARE program, the alcoholism program, the behaviour-modification program and the general out-patient program. These need not be hospital-based; they will continue with no disruption in service although administrative responsibility will shift to Queen Street.
- Maintaining existing services and expanding general hospital psychiatric services, together with a number of community-based after-care, rehabilitation and support services (to be funded through the \$1.3 million allocation), will improve out-patients' treatment and care.

What Happens to the Staff at Lakeshore?

- A total of 358 staff members will be transferred from Lakeshore to Queen Street facilities in the amalgamation of services, resulting in a total employment at Queen Street of approximately 1,170 persons.
- Two hundred and thirty-four layoff notices had to be issued, but a personnel committee, consisting of Ministry of Health management representatives and Ontario Public Service Employees Union representatives, was immediately established to assist in placement and relocation of staff members.
- A commitment was made by the Ministry of Health to those being laid off that:

a hiring freeze would be imposed in provincial government institutions where these people might be employed so that they would have first opportunity at public service jobs as they become available;

for those willing to transfer to openings in Ontario public service outside Metro, relocation assistance will be made available; and

ministry representatives would talk to administrators of general hospitals in the Metro area to discuss possible employment opportunities, particularly in those hospitals with psychiatric units.

- To date, 187 available positions have been posted at Lakeshore. As of April 6, 21 people have been transferred within the Ministry; 12 have transferred to other ministries; four have taken jobs at general hospitals; four have taken outside jobs; six have retired. Negotiations for others on the layoff list are continuing with other ministries and psychiatric hospitals.

April 6, 1979



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