

Priscilla Calzada

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Professor: Dr. Marcia Herrera

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The state of New York managed healthcare issues creating organizations and programs that would help facilitate services and advocacy for the many individuals that had mental illness. Along with creating organizations and programs, it also prepared individuals such as mental health professionals and social workers that would be working with people have mental illnesses. The first organization “the State Charities Aid Association of New York State (SCAA), an organization of private citizens in New York providing services and advocacy in the areas of mental health, public health, child welfare, social work, and relief for the poor, was founded in 1872.” (M.E. Grenander Special Collection & Archives) This organization was organized by Louisa Lee Schuyler, a leader of the New York City charitable who felicitated social work efforts and as time went on, more organizations were founded such as the New York City Committee on Mental Hygiene in 1927; a volunteer organization that helped bring more awareness addressing issues to mental health illness. During the 1930’s the SCAA provided services to many people during the Great Depression. Then in 1951 the New York State Society for Mental Health (NYSSMH) was affiliated with the SCAA and their “it’s missions included public education, advocacy, recruitment and training of mental health professional and volunteers, special studies, and research, and the creation of groups in every community to work for mental health and to obtain additional needed facilities.” (M.E. Grenander Special Collection & Archives) And last the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (MHANYS) an organization that was

formed in 1960 – its official name is the New York State Association for Mental Health, Inc. The MHANYS is also affiliated with the National Mental Health Association and it’s “purposes are to promote mental health, to improve care and treatment of persons with mental disabilities, and to help prevent mental illness.” (M.E. Grenander Special Collection & Archives) By the early 1970’s there were many local chapters that covered most of the state counties and were in affiliation with the New York State Association of Mental Hygiene. By the year 2000, the Mental Health Association in New York State grew more and more where staff members provide the care for mentally ill individuals who are in need. In reading through the archive of how the state has managed healthcare issues, I can say it has come a long way in preparing professionals and individuals to provide the services that people have with mental illnesses.

References:

M.E. Grenander Special Collections & Archives. *Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (MHANYS) Records 1879-2002*. University at Albany State University of New York.

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