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MRS. ROSEMOND GOINS

Name of Informant

Address

Date of Interview

30 Jul 73

Name of Reporter

E. Hausle

Other Report

Director of the Office of Family Planning Services office

Added Notes

HEARINGS UNDER WHICH YOU WERE HELD WITH A VIEW TO YOUR RECALL

Explanation of Family Planning Services; need for counseling for flood victims and others; guilt feelings among citizens; Outreach efforts immediately after the flood; problems of elderly flood victims; effects on children; increase of alcoholism; no minority problems; agencies made strong effort to deal with minority problems; housing is majority problem, rents too high.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FEDERAL BUREAU OF SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL

Age Sex Family

Socio-economic Status

Occupation

Education

Religion

Date of Arrival of Family in South Dakota

Years?

From where?

Number of Moves in South Dakota

Reasons for Moves

Q. Rapid City=South Dakota, July 30, 1973, Earl Hines Today I am interviewing Mrs. Roosevelt Goins.

Mrs. Goins can you tell me a little about the background of the family planning services, first, please?

A. Uh, family planning services was started here in Rapid City on July 1, 1971. We were funded \$25,000 due the Oleo office in Denver to start an outreach referral and follow-up program for family planning patients. On July 1, 1972, the amount of the funding was increased \$50,000 and this July we have been funded \$70,000. Now, our funding has been turned over to the HEW . We're no longer under ^{OEO} OLeo and we're funded through HEW right now. I have, uh, four outreach workers who to do counseling on all the methods of birth control and anything that involves in family planning - comprehensive family planning program. Plus, I have an outreach record from Rechonie, a tri-state Indian program Involved in family planning. She works out of my office and I train her and I supervise her and then I have a secretary and a receptionist .

Q. Are You...Do you have any connection now with the local community action agency.

A. Yes,uh, they handle all the financial and the _____ patrol for my program . We are not incorporated as yet.

Q. Do you work with any particular group...or people, perhaps an income...

A. Low income minority groups , mostly low income.

Q. But service is available to anyone

A. Anyone, yes

- Q. Uh, have you found, uh, some particular problems with people, uh, having to do with the flood.
- A. Yes, we still have people who are in need of, uh, mental health counseling or maybe just someone to talk to about the flood. I think the thing that interesting to note as our outreachers go out that people who were not involve directly in the flood do have very many, many problems that are bothering them emotionally or mentally about the flood even up to today. My secretary was not in the flood plane but she was in my office at the time of the flood. She lost her car, she lost everything. If it rains real hard or ~~continually~~ if rains continually, she has to be on tranquilizers. It upsets her so bad. We meet people like this all the time. Even myself I can feel my oh, I never usually pay any attention when it rains, but I pay attention.
- Q. Do you feel then that not only people who were actually in the flood but also other people who were effected by it, uh, have problems
- A. Indirect concept...contact with patients, my outreachers have run across many Rapid Cityans who were not involved , who have a very deep feeling of guilt. Because of the way the flood took people and left people, you know, take for instance, one house would be left completely intact and standing and the house next door was gone with maybe two or three desks.
- Q. Did you do any kind of special ~~of the~~ work during the period immediately following the flood or did you just carry under routine

- A. No, uh, the _____ action program hired on 26 more outreach workers and they were put under my supervision. We gave them a training in outreach. We outfitted them, it was raining at the time, with raincoats, caps, and boots and they were down in the areas. Uh, their job was to contact people in the areas and make sure that they were aware of the services that were available to them. Most of ... the important part of it all is to take them to the service...assist them in getting the service that was available, be it Red Cross or the nearest fund or whatever, and take them home and then do follow-up on it. We worked three months. I worked three months with the 26 outreach workers. We made over 17 hundred contacts to homes, into 17 hundred homes. We did follow-up visits on 920 of these homes to insure that the people involved received what they were supposed to receive or what was due them. Uh, because of the fact that West River Mill help was so inadequately staffed, I called Brookings and a Mr. John Macky, who works with an Indian group there sent me out three social workers. Two were students of social workers and one was a graduate social worker to do follow-up for the mental health referrals that with my out reachers were making, which they did and they did real well. They were only allowed to stay 2 weeks and he paid for everything, you know, for them to do this work for us. However, it was very inadequate. Two weeks is hardly enough time, you know, to accomplish, uh, what I felt should be accomplished. We had hoped at the time of the flood to even just have a talk telephone where people could call and talk, you know, at nights they can't sleep ...they need somebody to talk to. If they just had somebody, if it was an anonymous voice, you know, that they could relate to, that it would be helpful. Like I say, funds were very inadequate.

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- Q. Did you find that when you were helping people immediately after the flood that, uh, they simply didn't know of services available or they didn't know where to go or....
- A. No, I think that they were emotionally in shock. You know, the thing that struck me with the feedback from my outreachers was the fact that Rapid City is basically a home town. I've lived here for 35 years. Everybody rallies to everybody's health. But these people were in shock. You know, it...I was particularly concerned about my elderly people who _____ in the North Rapid area, uh, their housing was very small, you know, they didn't have too much but they had worked all their lives and they were basically independent people, very proud of the fact that they were self-sufficient and self-supporting to lose everything...put them in an area being a begger and having to take welfare and charity which I think really did ^{a lot} ~~it out~~ to them emotionally. You know, they just sort of gave up. In the work with the outreach workers, we encourage the workers to... to tell them that they could start over, that they could, you know, go on but at this point, umm... I think they needed more support and we were unable. We didn't have the time or the staff to fill the support...the supportive part. Many of these people are now in old folk's homes or they're in these,uh, new public housings which they hate...because being...their pride isn't...you know, pride is a very friable thing. It's a very difficult adjustment for them to make. I hope that through the mental health aids that they can support them enough that they will become self-sufficient again but I doubt if a lot of them will. They've basically given up.

Q. Do you feel that this, uh, these problems have affected other age groups, also.

A. The children are very much affected. I know through ____ of the day care and head start program they've had many, many problems with the children. Childrens are afraid. They ask questions when it rains. They can't understand the relocation, not being in their home...those trailers are not home you know, to most of the people and I just feel that it has, uh, ^{presented} many problems with the children. Our alchoholic, now our alchoholism program reported that they had noted in the paper that the public intoxication, the little columns of public intoxication was about a half larger than it ever was and all the names were new. You know, they weren't the repeated offenders and, uh, he had taken it upon himself to check out and find out if these were blood victims so that the amount of alchoholism was directly increased through the flood, I'm sure, because there are no jobs. There never has been too many jobs in Rapid City and the pay is so low that our working men were really in a problem. So that there... I'm sure that there has been an increase in many things.

Q. Do you feel that, uh, minority groups, uh, particularly have had special problems after the flood.

A. No, I don't think so. I think that one of the things that really impressed me was outside of the fact that we had a few personality conflicts with the people who worked in the agencies involving the flood. I can really safely say that all Indians were treated just the same as anybody else or any minority group. Uh, the people in the agencies who.... in my working with them with my outreach they bend^d over backwards trying to cut corners and cut the red tape in order to get help to these people. Here, again, you have,

uh, the Rapid City people I think that who rallied completely but through the Red Cross we got many people who were shipped in here from all parts of the country and they were very interested in trying to do things our way and they worked real hard. I think they were very sincere in their efforts. Uh, anytime we had any personality conflicts, I think it was a personal thing. We had a few problems with the Red Cross as far as the treatment of the Indians...you know, the bruskeness and ...and the not taking the time and the effort to understand how they are...how they are culturally speaking, that if we went down and talked to them it was taken care of immediately. There wasn't any, you know, screaming and yelling and burning or anything the way it was set down and explained to them. Ummm, this was, this was I think in all agnecies. Umm.. I was particularly impressed with the...what do they call that, the OP or POE or emergency prepareness. They came to me down in ___ and took the time and the effort to have all the brochures redone in Sioux so our people would know what was available for them. And they paid a translator to do this for them. I..I..I think that many people in Rapid City don't know these things. You know, that... they really made an effort, they're busy men. They came frome other places but they were concerned that these brochures were...you know, no one was reading them. Of course they weren't. So the community action, uh, worked in coordination with them and we got most of them translated into the Sioux language and as a result I think most of our people had been very adequately taken care of.

Q. What do you think are the major problems that are..that are now left after the flood which are flood related.

A. I think the biggest problem we have is housing. We had a problem before the flood. We were in need of three hundred and some units for people before the flood. You know, and they say that three hundred and some units are gone wiped away. That leaves us with six hundred and some units that we need for people to live in. We have people now who are living in cars and I think there has been a lot of discussion among the Rapid City people that we see all these magnificent buildings going up and our people have no place to live. Plus the fact that rent is clear out of control. We always have, I think, an emergency people who make money off of other people and our rent controls are fantastic.

Q. When you speak of magnificent buildings, you're talking about various kinds of large buildings being struc....

A. No, the federal buildings. I'm struck...I sit here and every day I look at this dull fine arts building and I just wonder if that money could have been used for people. You know, people are real, they're hungry, their hunger is for, their need is a ___ thing. Do we need a fine arts center at this point? You know, this is just one of the things. I'm not picking on Mr. Dollar or anything. Don't misunderstand me. But really I..I have people come in here every day that have no place to live. I see babies in cars and mothers try... feeding them you know, at _____ the places and such and it upsets me.

Q. You're thinking also of the civic center...

A. Yes...

Q. and the bank buildings that are going up

A. All these things

Q. All...all the structures

A. They're building money, you know, for money. But what about the little people who don't have any or don't have much. This is my concern. I think that, uh, this urban renewal is a wonderful thing but uh, how real is it? If we, as people, can let our family and children go hungry, we're not very nice people. And I know that Rapid City people have,uh, they have really tried to give all they could. There's a certain limit to your giving, too. These are real, real issues that we have through Capna. The housing problem is a very bad issue. We cannot find any place for anybody to live. And it's not blood victims, you know we have people that just...there's no place.

Q. Uh, you mentioned John Macky early in the interview and, uh, you mentioned Brookings. You ment the University of South Dakota.

A. Yes, I meant Vermillion. I'm sorry. I made a mistake.

Q. That's alright.

(END OF INTERVIEW)