

We must acknowledge that our current treatments have only limited efficacy.

However, new and exciting treatments are being developed, and there is promise that they will be joined by other techniques.

The recent introduction of drugs such as methadone and cyclazocine is attracting bright young scientists and professionals into the field. However, research is needed to undertake field trials to assess the long-term efficacy of these programs.

Investigation should include followup studies to ascertain the long-term consequences of alcoholism and drug addiction.

It is my conviction that the enactment of this legislation will further strengthen these programs.

(Dr. Klerman's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF GERALD L. KLERMAN, M.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY,
YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DIRECTOR, CONNECTICUT MENTAL
HEALTH CENTER

My name is Gerald L. Klerman, M.D. I am an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine and Director of the Connecticut Mental Health Center. The purpose of my testimony today is to support the proposed legislation to amend the Community Mental Health Centers Act to make provision for specialized facilities for alcoholics and narcotic addicts.

My support for this bill is derived from my general experience in psychiatry and mental health, and my recent experience as Director of the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven.

It has long been my conviction that the problems of alcoholism and narcotic addiction are best treated as integral parts of a comprehensive mental health program rather than in isolation. As part of this comprehensive program, I recommend that adequate training be provided for mental health workers, general physicians, personnel in the police and law enforcement agencies, and other groups to enhance their understanding of the nature and effects of alcoholism and drug addiction. I also strongly support the need for further research, especially in the development of new treatments.

THE CONNECTICUT MENTAL HEALTH CENTER AND THE NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY

These convictions have been reinforced by very recent experiences in the year and a half since the opening of the Connecticut Mental Health Center in July, 1966. The Connecticut Mental Health Center is a facility of the Connecticut State Department of Mental Health, and is operated jointly by that agency and Yale University School of Medicine. Located in the center of New Haven, immediately adjacent to the Yale-New Haven Medical Center, it represents the first such facility in Connecticut. We are proud that while the center was initiated and constructed prior to the enactment of the federal program for community mental health centers, our building and program embody the essential elements called for by the federal legislation and regulations, including inpatient and outpatient treatment, day hospital, emergency treatment, and community consultation and education. Early in our operation we applied for and were awarded a National Institute of Mental Health comprehensive community mental health center staffing grant to support our activities in a catchment area composed of the Hill neighborhood of New Haven and the city of West Haven, a population of 80,000 persons. In addition to providing comprehensive mental health services for this catchment area, we are involved in less intensive ways with the remainder of greater New Haven. Furthermore, as part of our university involvement we have major teaching and research programs in concert with our patient care and community activities.

Let me say a few words about the Hill neighborhood, on whose periphery the Center is located. The Hill is a typical inner city neighborhood, with characteristic social unrest and high rates of mental illness, accompanied by pervasive unemployment, substandard housing, poor schools, and racial discrimination. This neighborhood is in the midst of marked social transition; relatively large numbers of Blacks and Puerto Ricans have moved in, following upon the exodus of