

January 7, 1938

The Honorable A. B. Chandler,
Governor of Kentucky,
Frankfort, Kentucky.

My dear Governor Chandler:

I am in receipt of a letter from Doctor Arthur McCormack regarding the assignment of Doctor Lawrence Kolb to assume certain responsibilities in connection with your developing mental hygiene program. A copy of Doctor McCormack's letter is attached.

Assistant Surgeon General Treadway and I have discussed this matter at some length. We are anxious to give you all possible assistance. In our opinion, however, the type of arrangement suggested by Doctor McCormack will not meet your needs. The first and necessary step in developing your program will be for you to appoint a competent full-time administrative head for this work. If it is not possible for you at this time to find a competent person for this position, the Public Health Service would be glad, upon your written request, to assign one of its trained officers for a limited period of time to develop a state program for the care of the mentally sick. Such an assignment would be made only with the understanding that our officer would train someone to replace him when his limited assignment had terminated. If, therefore, my offer appeals to you, I would wish also to have assurance that at the end of a period of 12 to 18 months you would appoint a competent successor.

The above suggestion does not exclude continued consultative assistance and advice from Doctor Kolb.

Doctor Kolb has told me that he expects to see you tomorrow. I am telephoning to him suggesting that he discuss with you the principles and policies which we think are essential in the development of a satisfactory and permanent state program of mental hygiene.

We feel that Kentucky has a great opportunity among the southern states for leadership in this important field. It is for this reason I am anxious to give you any possible help.

Very sincerely yours,

TP:AMM CC: Dr. McCormack
Dr. Kolb

Surgeon General