

MARYLAND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
2222 North Charles Street
Baltimore 18, Md.
July 12, 1952

To the Members of the Maryland Occupational Therapy Association:

On June 18, the president of the MOTA received through the mail a brochure from an organization called Allied Occupational Therapy Center. The same day, another member of the Executive Committee had been questioned about this brochure and it was decided to discuss it at the meeting of the Executive Committee the same evening. Later on, it was found that this material had been sent to a large number of physicians in the Baltimore area. Excerpts from the brochure are given below:

1. "Allied Occupational Therapy Center has set up special programs as a therapeutic aid to the physicians and psychiatrists of Baltimore and surrounding territory."
2. "Our experience in training Veterans, including those disabled and attending under Public Law 16, places us in an enviable position to offer excellent training to all persons recommended by their physicians. Courses of instruction offered by the school were approved and supervised by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Veterans Administration. Programs offered by the center may be vocational or avocational in content and procedure, as prescribed by the patient's physician."
3. "Our staff of ten members have been selected carefully for their thorough knowledge, sound experience, and proven ability. They will be under the personal supervision of Mr. Coy R. Casto (M.A., Teachers College, Columbia University), and Mr. Vernie R. Croughan (Beaux Arts, New York), formerly Occupational Therapist at the Fort Howard Veterans Administration Hospital."
4. "The Center and the projects offered by it are conducted in strict conformity with all city, state, and Federal laws."
5. Fees: 1.00 per hour (minimum 5 hours daily); 1.25 per hour (minimum 3 hours daily); 1.50 per hour (minimum 2 hours daily); fees do not include cost of materials.
6. Great stress was laid on the fact that "no patients will be accepted for a program unless referred to us by a practicing physician."
7. An outline of crafts offered by the Center was given.
8. A prescription form to be used by the physician was enclosed.

The Center announced the appointment of Miss Beatrice E. Gold, OTR, member of American Occupational Therapy Association and Maryland Occupational Therapy Association as consultant. A listing of the Center was found in the telephone directory.

It was recalled at the meeting of the Executive Committee on June 18 that a Mr. Casto had been proposed for associate membership about two months prior to this date by an active member of MOTA. At that time, the Executive Committee decided to invite individuals recommended for associate membership to meetings first before accepting them as members.

During the meeting, Miss Gold, program chairman of MOTA, was asked by the president to inform the Executive Committee of the newly established Center. After Miss Gold had explained the development of the Allied Occupational Therapy Center, the matter was discussed at great length. Despite the fact that Dr. Conn, Baltimore psychiatrist, was backing the organization, it was evident to the Executive Committee that an unqualified group was attempting to offer occupational therapy to the medical profession. Miss Gold was asked to

express the feelings of the MOTA Executive Committee to the administrators of the Center, which included the fact that the Center could not be called OT-Center unless a registered therapist were there to administer treatment.

On June 19, Miss Hadra received a phone call from Mr. Howard Bockover, Administrator of Allied Trades School and the newly formed Allied Occupational Therapy Center, who had been contacted by Miss Gold. He asked whether Miss Hadra knew of a registered therapist, presently unemployed. She answered that she knew of none at the present time, but that she also wished to know more about the Center's program. Mr. Bockover asked for an appointment which was set for June 23.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Owen, Director of OT at the Seton Institute, and Delegate of MOTA, spoke with Dr. Conn, who felt the need for further activities for his patients after hospital discharge and had hoped that the Center might offer therapeutic activities. Dr. Conn explained that he had mistakenly been under the impression that Mr. Croughan, listed as an occupational therapist in the Center's brochure, had been a bona fide occupational therapist. Following this, Dr. Conn said that he did not wish to back an unethical venture. He suggested that the president of MOTA stress to Mr. Bockover the opinions of the Executive Committee. Miss Hadra contacted the personnel office of Fort Howard V.A. Hospital and was informed that Mr. Croughan was employed there from 1947 to 1948 as shop instructor, retraining division - not in occupational therapy. She also contacted Miss Fish, AOTA, who stated that legally a venture of this kind could not be prevented but that, in her opinion, the Executive Committee had adopted a workable approach by trying to talk to the administrators of the project.

On June 23, Miss Hadra and Mrs. Owen met with Mr. Bockover and Mr. John McGarry, administrators of the Allied Trades School and the newly formed Allied Occupational Therapy Center. The gentlemen stated that the attendance at the trades school was diminishing because of the eventual termination of the veterans program. In order to prevent the dismissal of the large group of craft instructors, they had hoped to inaugurate a program of occupational therapy. Miss Hadra and Mrs. Owen explained the difference between therapy and the teaching of crafts and pointed out the fallacy of thinking that one therapist and twelve craft instructors would constitute a sound therapy program. After considerable discussion, Mr. Bockover and Mr. McGarry said that they had not known what occupational therapy implies and agreed that they could best serve the community by administering a handicrafts center rather than an occupational therapy center. Mrs. Owen suggested that the Center be called "Allied Handicrafts Center". Mr. Bockover agreed to change the name accordingly. He suggested that he work up a draft of a letter to be sent to physicians and therapists explaining this change. Miss Hadra and Mrs. Owen consented to review the draft. Mr. Bockover also suggested that MOTA recommend the Allied Handicrafts Center to former patients who would like to make a hobby of crafts.

The following day, Miss Hadra called the Department of Education to investigate the standing of the Allied Trades School. She was informed by the gentleman who accredited the school for veterans training that they had done a good job in teaching subjects such as refrigeration, airconditioning, jewelry and leatherwork, and had a good reputation as a trades school. He mentioned that he thought their tuition was high.

On July 1, a letter from Mr. Bockover was received (see copy on next page). On July 7, the Executive Committee met again to discuss Mr. Bockover's letter as well as several letters received from members urging action to be taken

in this matter. At this meeting, Miss Gold stated that she had resigned from the Allied Occupational Therapy Center. It was suggested that she present a written report describing her connection with this group (see copy on page 5). It was decided to insist that a corrective statement be sent by the Allied Handicrafts Center as promised by them (see copy of letter written to Mr. Bockover, page 4). It was also agreed that a report of the actions taken so far by the Executive Committee should be mailed to the membership.

On July 12, Miss Hadra received a communication from the Allied Handicraft Center announcing the resignation of Miss Gold (see copy on page 5).

Ruth Hadra, OTR
President

Ruth Baldwin
Ruth Baldwin, OTR
Vice President

COPY of Mr. Bockover's letter, dated June 30, 1952:

"Dear Mrs. Owen:

We wish to take this means to thank both you and Miss Hadra for having been so kind in allowing us some of your valuable time to discuss the programs we are contemplating. Also we want to verify in writing the fact that we will no longer refer to our proposed program as the Allied Occupational Therapy Center but as you suggested it will be referred to in the future as the Allied Handicraft Center.

We are sure that this fact will be of interest to the Maryland Association of Occupational Therapy when it is presented to them as you indicated you intended doing upon receipt of this letter.

All pertinent facts that were discussed between us were relayed to Dr. Conn and his reaction was favorable, except that he felt it unnecessary to again write to the doctors on our mailing list notifying them of the change in the name. He stated that since there would be no actual changes in the program that we have set up a notification might have a tendency to confuse, and that we could personally present the picture to the respective doctors as we come in contact with them.

Again we wish to thank both you and Miss Hadra for your kindness in talking with us and offering us your sound advice and hope that our original meeting was the beginning of a long lasting personal and professional friendship.

Sincerely yours,

signed: C. H. Bockover "

COPY of letter sent to Mr. Bockover, dated July 9, 1952:

Mr. C.H. Bockover
Allied Handicraft Center
12-14 South Patterson Park Ave.
Baltimore 31, Md.

Dear Mr. Bockover:

On return from my vacation, I received your letter of June 30, addressed to Mrs. Owen. At the same time, numerous letters had come to me from our membership protesting the representation of a handicrafts school as an occupational therapy center.

These letters were discussed at a meeting of our Executive Committee and I was glad to be able to present to them your written assurance of the change of your organization from Allied Occupational Therapy Center to Allied Handicraft Center. However, the members still feel very strongly that a written statement to that effect should be sent to all those who received your original brochure. As we said in our discussion with you, your contribution to the community would be considerably greater in the role of teachers of trades and crafts. Therapy is another matter and should be administered only by those qualified.

Dr. Conn shares our opinion and recommended that we once again request the mailing of a letter according to previous agreement. Also we would like to remind you of your suggestion that we review the letter before it is mailed.

We appreciate the efforts you have made toward understanding our point of view and hope that with mutual cooperation this matter can be settled to the satisfaction of all.

Sincerely yours,

signed: Ruth Hadra, OTR
President

signed: Ruth Baldwin, OTR
Vice President "

COPY of Miss Gold's letter, dated July 8, 1952:

Dear Miss Hadra:

We discussed the outlining of the procedures up to date of the Allied Occupational Therapy Service which has now been changed to the Allied Crafts Center.

My first connection with them was an investigative procedure for some of the physicians who inquired about the service. I explained Occupational Therapy to the administrators of the school and discussed it with them. They felt that they had not known that they were involved in an unethical program and wanted advice on how the program should be instituted to meet ethical requirements. The school was investigated thru the V.A., The School Board, and several physicians who were given as references. The administrators agreed to secure the medical board of advisors and the Registered Occupational Therapist that would be necessary to carry on a bonafide treatment program. They also agreed that as the patient load increased the number of registered therapists would also increase. The publicity which had gone out was to be revised and changed to meet the new policy.

My connections with them began to be severed when without my knowledge they sent out a business card with my name on it without the use of the word consultant in which capacity I had joined them to set up the program on a sound basis and which I had told them I would leave when they had their program set up and the full time therapist on the premises. I have since severed all connections with the group, an announcement of which is forthcoming shortly.

I am very sorry this has caused you so much trouble but I did feel originally that this was an opportunity for a service which is needed in the community.

Sincerely yours,

signed: Beatrice E. Gold "

Copy of announcement from Allied Handicraft Center, July 11, 1952:

" It is with regret that we announce the separation of

Miss Beatrice Gold, OTR, from our staff.

ALLIED HANDICRAFT CENTER

formerly

ALLIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTER "

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRESCRIPTION

By: Dr. Date

Patient's Name..... SexS M W D

Address..... Telephone.....

Occupation..... Special Interests.....

Diagnosis:.....

Physical and Emotional Handicaps:.....

PATIENT TO BEGIN WITH: Check:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Jewelry | 9. Metal Work | 17. Dresden Doll Painting |
| 2. Leathercrafts | 10. Enameling | 18. Lettering & Posters |
| 3. Lapidary | 11. Bookbinding | 19. Water Color Painting |
| 4. Modeling (Clay & Plasteline) | 12. Hooked Rugs | 20. Chair Caning & Basketry |
| 5. Ceramics | 13. China Painting | 21. Knitting and Crocheting |
| 6. Oil Painting | 14. Glass Etching | 22. Lens and Mirror Grinding |
| 7. Weaving | 15. Marionettes & Puppets | |
| 8. Working in Plastics | 16. Textile Painting | |

Therapeutic Approach required:

Attitude toward patient:
Matter-of-fact..... Indulgent..... Firm.....

Attention to be given:
Maximum..... Average..... Minimum.....

Type of Activity:

Brief..... Prolonged.....

Precise..... Inexact.....

Passive..... Aggressive.....

Special Remarks:

ALLIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTER
12-14 South Patterson Park Avenue
Baltimore 31, Maryland
Telephone—PEabody 3993

Signed:..... MD

Laurel Sanitarium, Laurel, Maryland
4 July 1952

Dear Miss Hadra:

Mrs. Price has phoned me relative to the Occupational Therapy Center and the position taken by Miss Gold as Consultant.

Apparently this is of a commercial character which is greatly at variance with the ideals of occupational therapists and steps should be taken so the prestige of occupational therapy will not be lowered.

I have suggested that contacts be made with the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, the Association of Commerce, and the Better Business Bureau which I am under the impression is a part of the Chamber of Commerce, but it may be a separate organization. Also the AOTA should be informed of the status of the Occupational Therapy Center in case they wish to take some steps relative to the status of Miss Gold. Examples of advertising this group is putting out should also be submitted.

I understand from Mrs. Price that this group previously were in trouble for collecting fees for non-existent pupils. Such facts should be presented if proof exists.

Sincerely

W.R. Dunton, Jr.



THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL
MEMBER AGENCY COMMUNITY FUND
GREENSPRING AVENUE
BALTIMORE 11, MARYLAND

July 7, 1952

Miss Ruth Hadra O.T.R.
President, Maryland Occupational Therapy Association
2222 N. Charles St.
Baltimore 18, Md.

Dear Miss Hadra:

It has been called to my attention the existence of a school of arts and crafts in Baltimore, operating under the name of Allied Occupational Therapy Center, 12 South Patterson Park Ave. Since the names of the directors, Mr. Bockover and Mr. McGarry do not appear in the 1952 O. T. Yearbook, I assume they are not registered therapists.

If a therapist is connected with this center as a consultant, and if those who administer Occupational Therapy are not qualified, I feel that the former should be advised as to the lack of wisdom in her connection with the center.

Occupational Therapy standards must be upheld in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Hall

Martha E. Hall O.T.R.

American Occupational Therapy Association

33 WEST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

PENNSYLVANIA 6-5232

WINIFRED C. KAHMANN, O.T.R., PRESIDENT
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARTHA E. MATTHEWS, O.T.R.
EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY

ELLA FAY, O.T.R.
SPEAKER, HOUSE OF DELEGATES

LUCIE S. MURPHY, O.T.R.
EDITOR, A. J. O. T.

August 4, 1952

Miss Ruth Hadra, OTR, President
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association
2222 North Charles Street
Baltimore, 18, Maryland

My dear Miss Hadra:

Many thanks for your letter of July 30th containing the interesting and helpful report on your activities with the Trades School. Congratulations to you and members of the Legislative and Civil Service Committee for your accomplishment!

I shall take the liberty of making a brief statement about this in connection with the AOTA Legislative Committee report.

I appreciate receipt of a statement from Miss Ruth Brunyate who further substantiated action of the Maryland Executive Committee. It would be wonderful if all states reported so promptly and clearly their efficient action!

We look forward to seeing quite a delegation from Maryland at the Milwaukee Conference.

Sincerely yours,



Marjorie Fish, OTR
Executive Director

MF:cs