

I was searching for another document on some old discs and found this. Thought it might be of interest to the association. I did this for the regional leaders handbook and I obtained the information from Martha Martin. It would be great to keep it updated as we head toward 2000.

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Association for Volunteer Administration: OUR HISTORY

1940 - 1960 A rapid growth of volunteer services to the mentally ill and retarded occurred. Growth was due to publicity about conditions existing in some tax-supported institutions and, in the immediate postwar years, the eagerness of citizens to help the returning disabled veterans. This movement presented mental health facilities with a valuable resource: volunteers. The American Association of Volunteer Services Coordinators (AAVSC) developed through a series of meetings. People, who had pioneered volunteer services programs in psychiatric settings, were concerned and felt the need to equip themselves better to administer volunteer programs.

1958 A nucleus of 22 coordinators representing 12 states met prior to the Mental Hospital Institute of the APA (American Psychiatric Association) in Kansas City, Missouri to:

1. Explore methods of establishing channels of communication for interstate exchange of information regarding volunteer services in mental hospitals; and,
2. Decide whether the group wished to set a pattern of meeting periodically under the auspices of one of the national health or welfare organizations.

In October this group of coordinators convened in Chicago at the conference on "Volunteer Services To Psychiatric Patients". This meeting was cooperatively sponsored, planned and conducted by the APA, the American Hospital Association, the American Red Cross, the National Association for Mental Health, and the Veterans Administration. The published report of the meeting, **THE VOLUNTEER AND THE PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT, 1959**, was a guide for the profession and one of the first in the field.

October 1959 Representatives from other disciplines involved in the treatment of psychiatric patients also attended a second pre-Mental Hospital Institute meeting of coordinators in Buffalo, New York.

February 1960 The National Association for Mental Health, in cooperation with the Menninger Foundation and the Topeka State Hospital, organized the first training institute for coordinators of volunteer services. It was supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health and the Nathan Hofheimer Foundation. Participants attended from 36 states, the District of Columbia, and two provinces of Canada. Serious interest in the formation of an association developed; however, no specific action was taken. **VOLUNTEER SERVICES IN MENTAL HOSPITALS**, which became a standard reference on volunteer services program management in psychiatric settings, summarized the institute's presentations.

- October 1960** The founders met in Salt Lake City and decided to form an organization. They elected a slate of officers who were charged with preparing a constitution and bylaws, appointing appropriate committees and regional representatives throughout the United States and preparing a program for the next meeting.
- October 1961** Ninety-nine charter members met in Omaha, Nebraska, adopted a constitution and bylaws, and AAVSC became an official organization. Annual meetings were held prior to the Mental Hospital Institute meeting, and secretariat services were established with the headquarters of the American Psychiatric Association. AAVSC initiated two pieces of research: one, job related to ascertain how coordinators function, their tasks, and how they allocate their time; the other, the 1973 national survey on training needs as identified by practitioners in the field. The organization also cooperated with The Clearinghouse of the National Center for Voluntary Action, The Goodwill Industries of America and the National Institute for Mental Health. The three efforts resulted in the publication of materials on the development of volunteer programs--the Green Sheets and Portfolios published by NCVA—a twelve-pamphlet volume, "Volunteers in Rehabilitation", published by Goodwill Industries and a NIMH monograph, "The Impact of Volunteerism on the Aging."
- August 1963** AAVSC held a planning conference at the APA headquarters in Washington, D.C. to set goals on standards to be achieved by the organization. The conference report, "The Development of Standards and Training Curriculum for Volunteer Services Coordinators," was published in Psychiatric Studies and Projects, February, 1964.
- 1967** AAVSC established a certification plan for professional personnel in the field of volunteer services. The purpose was to certify those individuals who met the prescribed standards and qualifications. These included the number of years of formal education and experience as well as the number of hours of relevant seminar or workshop attendance. AAVSC periodically revised the plan to meet the changing needs of the new emerging profession. In conjunction with Northeastern University, AAVSC requested a three-year training grant from NIMH. It was funded in 1970. The first course began in February, 1971, and finished in May of that year. After major revisions, the course was repeated in 1972 and 1973.
- 1969** After careful planning between Dr. Robert E. Lee of the Rehabilitation Institute faculty and AAVSC, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale offered a master's degree program in volunteer services program administration. The governor of the State of Washington created a cabinet-level position for a Coordinator of Volunteer Services. This action increased the visibility of volunteers and their ability to improve the delivery of human services.
- 1970** AAVSC moved the national headquarters to Chicago. Membership grew to 400.
- 1971** AAVSC became a generic professional association as it opened its membership to salaried administrators from all programmatic settings in the human services field. Many coordinators from a wide range of facilities joined and AAVSC membership reached a total of more than 600 during the 1971-1973 biennium.
- 1973** The members sent a resolution to the National Governors' Conference requesting the establishment of a cabinet-level coordinator of volunteer services in all states.

- The Association notified the APA Institute of Hospital and Community Psychiatry of its decision to become independent. Fellow Awards were initiated and the Public Policy Committee was formed.
- 1975** AAVSC was represented in discussions with Lilly Endowment Inc. which later provided the money to create the Alliance for Volunteerism with the Association as a founding member. AAVSC was responsible for the Alliance Education Task Force which concerned itself with the development of a proposal for professional schools and associations to prepare their students and members to work with volunteers. AAVSC changed its name and became the Association for Administration of Volunteer Services (AAVS). The word "salaried" was dropped as a requirement for active membership, and the bylaws were revised to open membership to those actively involved in the field of volunteer administration, educators and researchers in the field.
- 1976** With Alliance support, AAVS moved its office to Boulder, Colorado, and hired an Executive Secretary. Active members received subscriptions to Volunteer Administration and Voluntary Action Leadership as part of their dues. The first collaborative conference was held in conjunction with the Association of Volunteer Bureaus and the Association of Voluntary Action Scholars. AAVS and the Southern California Council of DOVIAs agreed to participate in a pilot study of ways in which the national organization and local DOVIAs could cooperate and collaborate to mutual advantage. The results of this preliminary exploration of affiliate membership was reported at the 1977 conference.
- 1979** The Board authorized the president to hire a management consultant and a certification consultant for three months. The former was to put AAVS on a fiscally sound basis, research grants and write proposals, prepare the Association for marketing the Certification Plan and research marketing specialists. The latter was to complete the revised Certification Plan together with procedures for its implementation. At the annual meeting the membership adopted a revised set of bylaws incorporating new board and regional structures, and AAVS became the Association for Volunteer Administration (AVA). Special Interest Groups were recognized and scheduled meetings during the annual conference.
- 1980** C. S. Mott Foundation support enabled AVA to develop a marketing campaign, increase membership and establish affiliate memberships. Four groups became affiliate members.
- 1981** The performance-based Certification Program was pilot tested in cooperation with Adelphi University, and "The Regional Conference Planning Guide" was developed collaboratively. The new regional structure and board realignment which had been approved in 1979 became effective. The board shrank from 28 to 14 persons, four committees reflected the priorities of AVA, and a single slate of officers was presented for election. AVA initiated a formal awards program and established standardized procedures for endorsement of educational programs.
- 1982** AVA undertook the publication of *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*.
- 1983 - 1985** Certification program was field tested. First CVA credential was awarded.
- 1987** First Higher education survey conducted.
- 1988** Future Directions strategic planning meeting held to develop 5-year goals.

- 1989** Model course curriculum based on the professional competencies is piloted. Second higher education survey conducted.
- 1990** Survey of the educational needs of volunteer administrators conducted in conjunction with University of Georgia.
- 1991** Mini-grants awarded for innovative training models. International Task Force begins expansion of international activities and awareness.