

## MARRIAGE COUNSELING SERVICES IN KANSAS AND KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*Quintin Johnstone\**

Marriage counseling is growing in popularity. The public demand for it is substantial and the professions are increasingly receptive to working with marriage counselors on a referral and consultation basis. Where marriage counseling services have been well publicized, the demand for them often is more than can be provided by existing resources.

This article is designed to assist interested lawyers and judges by giving them a description of marriage counseling services now available from agencies in the Kansas area. It may also be of help to other professional people whose knowledge of existing facilities is incomplete. It is a surprise to many that our counseling resources, though inadequate, are as great as they are.

Marriage counseling, as the term is used in this article, is arbitrarily limited to counseling in marital conflict situations by those specially trained in the fields of emotional maladjustment and personality development. This definition involves no intent to disparage the contributions of the average lawyer, minister, physician, or social worker who deals with marital conflict cases; but the aim of the article is to concentrate on one service group that operates in a somewhat different manner from others who work with these cases. Marriage counseling as here defined is based largely on the knowledge and techniques of the behavior sciences, particularly psychiatry and psychology. In addition, most counselors have a broad background in the nature of marriage and the patterns of marriage breakdown, and have had intensive academic training in psychiatry, psychiatric social work, or clinical psychology. A few of them are psychiatrists, and many of them work under close supervision of psychiatrists or in close consultation with them. Pre-marital counseling is omitted from consideration because concern here is with what to do about marital conflict once it has developed, not on how to prevent it.

The major aim of marriage counseling is to aid spouses in understanding the nature of their marital problems so that they can more

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\*Professor of Law, University of Kansas School of Law.

satisfactorily make their own decisions about these problems. This requires the counselor to learn a good deal about the spouses, including their emotional behavior and attitudes. The counselor obtains his information by prolonged discussions with one or both spouses.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes the counselor works with only one spouse, sometimes with both; but conferences are usually held with only one spouse present at a time. If more than a quick diagnosis is sought, a number of conferences take place, perhaps as many as one a week for six months or a year. Gradually, as the counselor learns more about the couple, he brings out the underlying reasons for the spouses' behavior and the changes that are necessary if they are to behave differently. This may be presented in a direct statement by the counselor, or he may help the person counseled to reason these matters out for himself. The process is not quick or simple. For the exploration into the couple's conduct and attitudes may be very thorough and there may be strong reluctance fully and accurately to disclose intimate and disturbing matters. Also, the person counseled usually re-evaluates his behavior and his goals in life as related to the marriage, and this is likely to be slow and upsetting. But from this whole process may come a stabilizing of the marriage and gradual elimination of serious conflict within it. Marriage counseling is most likely to be successful with spouses who desire to be helped with their marital problems and are hesitant about securing a divorce. But even if the marriage fails and there is a divorce, the counseling may be successful in the sense that it eases the adjustment to divorce and enables those counseled thereafter to live more satisfying lives.

Marriage counseling offers no guarantees. But in many cases it offers more hope of an intelligent, permanent solution to marital problems than either divorce without counseling or reconciliation without counseling. There are those in the legal profession who recognize this. And the family court proposals that have received such enthusiastic support include court marriage counselors as one of their features. A few courts already have such counselors on their staffs.

An alternative to counseling by family court staff members is the use by lawyers and judges of marriage counseling service that are independent of court control. The main use that lawyers can make of these

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<sup>1</sup> Methods used by marriage counselors are discussed in these books and articles: CUBER, *MARRIAGE COUNSELING PRACTICE* (1948); MUDD, *THE PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE COUNSELING* (1951); Foster, *How a Marriage Counselor Handles a Case*, 16 *MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIVING* 139 (1954); Mace, *What Is a Marriage Counselor*, *id.* at 135.

services is to refer clients to them when the clients are willing to go and when the lawyers feel that counseling would be beneficial. Judges can make similar referrals. An objection that lawyers have to domestic relations cases is the time that so many of them take because the clients insist on endless discussions of matters which are irrelevant to the legal merits of the cases. These legal irrelevancies are important to marriage counselors; and lawyers can frequently assist their clients and save time for themselves by referrals to counselors whose business it is to work with such matters. The bench and bar can also use marriage counselors as consultants in determining when to refer cases, when and how to counsel cases themselves, to whom child custody should be awarded, and the chances for success of contemplated reconciliations. A close working relationship with lawyers helps counselors too, as they need to know lawyers to whom they can, with confidence, refer those who need legal advice.

The legal profession has adopted high standards of responsibility in marital cases. Fuller use of marriage counselors may enable the profession to better carry these standards into effect.

The kinds of agencies in Kansas and Kansas City that provide marriage counseling services are similar to those that exist in most parts of the United States: family service agencies, guidance and mental health clinics, and a miscellany of other organizations. The one unusual agency in our area is The Menninger Foundation in Topeka. It has given Kansas a world-wide reputation in mental health and is now doing the same in marriage counseling.

Most of the agencies in the area are private, non-profit, and charitably supported. They each offer several services of which marriage counseling is only one. Ordinarily, basic policies are made by boards of directors consisting of twenty or thirty prominent local citizens on each board. Fees usually vary with ability to pay, and cover only a fraction of each agency's cost of operation. A large percentage of those who come to the agencies for marriage counseling are in the middle and upper income brackets. Some agencies serve only people living in their city or county. Others will take cases no matter where those involved reside.

In Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri, there are ten marriage counseling agencies that take cases of those who are not mentally ill but are having marital troubles and want to do something about them.

Most of these agencies do not treat deeply disturbed persons. Others, such as The Menninger Foundation, are eminently qualified to do so, and take many such cases. In addition to the ten agencies, persons who are not mentally ill can obtain marriage counseling from the few marriage counselors within the area who are in private practice. The names of qualified marriage counselors in Kansas and Missouri who will take private patients may be obtained by writing the American Association of Marriage Counselors, 270 Park Avenue, New York 17, New York. Persons who go to any of these marriage counseling services do so voluntarily and may terminate the relationship at will.

With the cooperation of agency staff members, the following reports have been prepared of marriage counseling agencies in Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri.<sup>2</sup>

#### TOPEKA, KANSAS

*The Menninger Foundation, 3617 West Sixth Street.*

In 1950, the marriage counseling service was established at The Menninger Foundation. The staff consists of a director and three to five post-doctoral marriage counseling trainees. The training program, one of two such programs in the United States, receives financial support from the Grant Foundation of New York. The marriage counseling service obtains advice and assistance from the other staff members of The Menninger Foundation as needed. Last year the service handled about fifty cases, some of which, after interviews, were referred to the Foundation's Division of Adult Psychiatry. Those counseled came from all sections of the United States.

The marriage counseling staff, in addition to its work at the Foundation, also assists in counseling at Family Service of Topeka, the Shawnee Guidance Center, and Forbes Air Base. In this way the services of Menninger personnel are available for those who cannot afford to pay the rates at the Foundation.

The charges for marriage counseling at the Foundation are comparable to those for private patients at large psychiatric hospitals: ten dollars and up for each hour of counseling. Most persons who come for counseling are out-patients. The period of counseling time has

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<sup>2</sup>The agencies were asked to submit reports on their organization and activities, and in doing so to follow an outline that was sent to them. The original reports are on file in the library of the University of Kansas School of Law.

varied from one hour to sixty hours per patient. The Director of Marriage Counseling at the Foundation is Dr. Robert G. Foster.

*Shawnee Guidance Center, 921 Topeka Boulevard.*

The Guidance Center is a mental health clinic that takes marriage counseling cases. Its professional personnel consists of three psychiatrists full time, three child psychiatrists part time, two clinical psychologists full time and one part time, a psychiatric social worker, and the marriage counseling staff of The Menninger Foundation. The Director is Dr. Robert O. Bill, a psychiatrist. The services of the Center are restricted to residents of Shawnee County, Kansas.

Fees for counseling range from two dollars an hour to ten dollars an hour. Persons who can clearly afford private care and treatment are encouraged to seek the assistance of private practitioners. About forty marriage counseling cases are taken each year.

The Guidance Center is a non-profit organization supported by the Community Chest, private donors, and fees from patients. In addition to marriage counseling, it provides out-patient diagnostic and treatment service for emotionally disturbed children and adults. The Center is open five days a week.

*Family Service of Topeka, Inc., 335 Jackson Street.*

This is an agency that does marriage counseling, operates a day nursery for children two to four years old, and provides casework assistance to individuals and families with problems. The agency has a limited amount of money to be used when this help will enable persons or families to then manage on their own. It does not take psychiatric cases. There are no restrictions on the income class it is authorized to assist. Family Service has been serving Topeka since 1904, until recently under the name of the Provident Association.

This agency is a non-profit corporation supported chiefly by a city charities tax. Fees are charged for counseling service as well as day care, and are based on ability to pay. Most of those whom it serves live in Topeka, but it also takes cases from surrounding communities.

The staff of Family Service includes two caseworkers, five nursery teachers, and the marriage counseling group from The Menninger Foundation. In 1953, the Menninger group handled eighteen marriage counseling cases at Family Service. In addition, counseling on marital adjustment was provided to about forty families by the caseworkers.

The agency is open five days a week. Its Acting Executive Secretary is Mrs. Joanne Bearg.

#### WICHITA, KANSAS

*Family Consultation Service, Inc., 720 West Douglas Avenue.*

The Family Consultation Service of Wichita was organized in 1900, is a member of the Community Chest, the Community Planning Council and the Family Service Association of America.

In addition to counseling service, it operates a day nursery licensed by the state to care for forty children, ages two to seven.

The Family Consultation Service has a professionally trained staff consisting of eight professional counselors and a consulting psychiatrist. About 65 per cent of the counseling cases involve problems of marital conflict. In many situations the marriage mates are contemplating divorce; and in some, divorce petitions have already been filed when counseling is first sought.

The major source of funds for the agency is the Community Chest, but counseling fees supplement this. The average fee is \$3.00 an interview, but fees may run up to \$7.50 an interview. No charge is made to those who cannot afford to pay anything. Many middle class families seek assistance from the agency; and only about one family in twenty is in financial need. Approximately one-fourth of those who come to the service are referred there by ministers, lawyers, physicians, and employers. Some lawyers are using the service for consultation purposes in relation to divorce and juvenile cases.

The agency is a non-profit corporation, and its Executive Director is Philip S. Akre. The office is open five days a week, but it is advisable to make interview appointments in advance by telephone, Hobart 4-8317.

#### KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

*The Family and Children's Service, Inc., 732 Armstrong Avenue.*

In addition to other functions, this organization does a great deal of marriage counseling: in 1952, 140 cases; in 1953, 190 cases. The usual marriage counseling case remains in treatment for from three to six months, with weekly interviews, although some severely maladjusted cases have lasted for a year. The agency serves mostly low income families, but the trend is toward more upper and middle income persons making use of its services. About 10 per cent of its cases are now from

this latter group. Fees are charged those able to pay. They are based on ability to pay and range from one dollar to ten dollars per interview. Service is provided only to persons from Wyandotte County.

Eight full-time social workers, including the Executive Director and a part-time consulting psychiatrist, make up the professional staff. The social workers have at least Master's Degrees from graduate schools of social work and some have had advanced training in psychiatric social work. Counseling is done by the social workers. The psychiatrist is consulted about diagnosis and treatment, and occasionally sees an agency client himself when diagnosis is difficult. Establishment of a group marriage counseling program is under consideration, and one staff member has been on leave of absence to obtain special training for this purpose.

Family Service is a non-profit corporation, created in 1942 by a merger of the Family Welfare Association, The Children's Bureau, and Catholic Charities. It is inter-denominational, and supported primarily by the Community Chest. Helen F. Gant is the Executive Director.

In addition to marriage counseling, Family Service does foster home placement of children, advises unmarried mothers, provides a homemaker service in motherless homes, counsels in cases of emotionally disturbed children, and gives planning advice and limited monetary assistance to families in financial difficulties.

#### LAWRENCE, KANSAS

##### *Bert Nash Mental Health Clinic, City Hall.*

The purpose of this Clinic is stated by its staff to be: ". . . to render service to individuals in the community by means of psychotherapy, counseling, diagnostic services, and other related means; the promotion of public understanding of the personal, social, and emotional problems of all ages and groups; cooperation with all existing agencies in the community."

The Bert Nash Clinic was established in 1950 and is a private, unincorporated, non-profit organization supported by the Community Chest and in small part by private donations. It charges no fees; and except in emergencies, accepts only persons who live in Douglas County.

Most of the Clinic's work has been out-patient diagnosis and treatment for personality and behavior disorders of persons not in need of hospitalization. But it also does some marriage counseling, and in the past two years has taken nine such cases. In four of them only one spouse was seen; in the others, both spouses were seen. The average counseling time for each marriage counseling case was five hours. Physicians are the only professional persons who have referred marriage counseling cases, but about 15 per cent of all referrals of other kinds of cases have been by local judges.

Although the Clinic office at the City Hall is open six days a week, a psychiatric social worker is the only full-time employee, and consultations with other staff members are restricted to a four-hour clinic session held one day a week at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The Director of the Clinic is a clinical psychologist who, in addition to administrative duties, also does diagnosis, therapy, and testing. He is aided by doctoral candidates in clinical psychology from the University of Kansas. A psychiatrist attends the weekly clinic sessions. Patients are seen at the clinic sessions by appointment only. The Director of the Bert Nash Clinic is Dr. Ben Lewis.

#### ATCHISON, KANSAS

##### *Atchison County Guidance Clinic, City Hall.*

In 1938, this Clinic was started to diagnose and treat the problems of emotionally disturbed children. In 1950, its services were enlarged to include adults with emotional and marital problems. The staff consists of a full-time psychiatric social worker and a psychiatrist who sees patients at the Clinic one-half day each week in consultations that last about thirty minutes each. The social worker also does counseling, but under the supervision of the psychiatrist. Marriage counseling is a minor part of the Clinic's work.

Most of those who come to the Clinic are in the middle income group. Counseling fees are charged of five dollars for the first consultation with the psychiatrist, three dollars for subsequent consultations with him, and one dollar for counseling with the social worker. A fee is asked of everyone, for it is felt that this gives the service more meaning to those who are counseled. Some low income persons are charged less than the regular rate. County Welfare pays the regular fees of those on its roles who are receiving psychiatric assistance from the Clinic.



In marriage counseling cases when both spouses come to the Clinic, the psychiatrist usually sees the one who initiated the request for help or the one who seems most seriously disturbed. The social worker sees the other one. Counseling ordinarily lasts three to six months, with weekly half-hour interview sessions; but one case has been carried for two years.

The Atchison Clinic is financed by grants from the United Fund, the schools, the city, and by patients' fees. The Clinic office is open five days a week.

#### KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*Family Service of Kansas City, Missouri*, 113 Railway Exchange Building, Seventh and Walnut Streets.

Marriage counseling and the other typical family service functions are performed by this agency. Of the approximately 1500 counseling cases of all kinds handled by Family Service each year, serious marital frictions exist in about one-third of them. In many of these cases, the agency was sought out for assistance in meeting marital problems; in others, marital problems had to be faced in order to make progress on some other family difficulties that were brought to the agency. Marriage counseling interviews last about one hour each, and on the average continue once a week for three or four months. When needed, referrals are made to such other community resources as lawyers, pastors, physicians, and any other appropriate community agency.

Family Service has a staff of eighteen professional social workers, each of whom is required to have an academic degree from an accredited school of social work. A psychiatrist is available for consultations with the social workers on difficult cases; and a psychologist is available on call to give standard psychological tests. The Executive Director is Miss Bernice Bish.

Financial support of Family Service comes largely from the United Funds of Kansas City; and for this reason, the agency serves only persons from the United Funds area. The area includes Jackson County, Missouri, part of Johnson County, Kansas, and parts of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri. The United Funds contribution is supplemented by fees charged to those persons counseled who can afford to pay them. Fees vary with the income and size of the family. Persons from all economic, racial, and religious groups are served. The office is open six days a week.

Family Service is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1941. It was founded in 1880 and operated for many years as the Provident Association.

*The Kansas City Social Hygiene Society, Inc.*, 1020 McGee Street.

Marriage counseling and family life education are the major work of this Society. A full-time counselor is employed, and he is assisted by a part-time consultant. Some volunteers are used in the marriage education program, but they do no counseling. The agency is not prepared to take cases in which one or both spouses are deeply disturbed and in need of psychiatric treatment.

Most of those who come to the Society for counseling are business and professional people or their spouses, although the agency serves working class families. Spouses are not interviewed together unless they request it. Marriage counseling fees are three dollars an interview for residents of the Kansas City area, five dollars an interview for non-residents. No charge is made for the first interview with residents. Interviews normally last about an hour. Non-residents are accepted no matter where they live.

During 1953, a typical year, the Society had 135 marriage counseling cases. Interviews average 8 per case, but vary from 1 to 25. On the average, they are spread over a period of 2 months, but some cases have remained active for 3 years. In 1953, 78 per cent of the marriage counseling cases were referred to the agency from these sources: ministers, 31 per cent; physicians, 16 per cent; friends and relatives of those referred, 16 per cent; nurses and teachers, 6 per cent; social agencies, 5 per cent; lawyers, 3 per cent. The remaining 23 per cent knew of the agency from other sources and came without referral.

The agency was founded in 1922, and is a non-profit corporation. About 85 per cent of its income is from the Community Chest, and most of the balance comes from counseling fees.

The family life education program of the Society includes films and talks on preparation for marriage, dating, human relations, and sex education. The program is carried on at schools, churches, and community centers. Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish organizations have taken advantage of the Society's educational services.

The Executive Secretary of the Society is Mr. P. K. Houdek. He does most of the marriage counseling. The office is open six days a week, but interviews are by appointment only.

*Planned Parenthood Association of Kansas City, Missouri*, 1127 East Thirty-First Street, Kansas City 9, Missouri.

This agency specializes in both child spacing and infertility problems, and is qualified to give advice and counseling when marital conflict is related to these problems. For example, if dissension between spouses is caused by too large a family of children or too frequent child birth, the Association can be very helpful. Also, if the dissension seems caused by impotency, frigidity, infertility, or some other sexual adjustment problem, the Association can be of help. It not only arranges for medical examinations, treatments, and instructions on these problems, but also does counseling on emotional adjustment aspects of them except when the persons are so deeply disturbed as to require the long-term therapeutic aid of a psychiatrist.

The Association is a non-profit organization and was founded in Kansas City nineteen years ago; but it has operated with a professional staff only since 1945. Today the professional staff consists of an executive director, who among other things does the marriage counseling; two social workers; and at clinic sessions, five physicians and three nurses. Three of the physicians are gynecologists. The office is open from Mondays through Fridays, and clinic sessions are held two days a week at the office and three days a week at other locations. Clinic sessions are primarily for medical examinations and consultations. The Association is one of 112 affiliates of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Medical policies for the Kansas City organization are set by an advisory board of 21 local physicians. Other policies are the responsibility of a 30-man board of directors.

No fee is charged for marriage counseling or sterility consultations, but there is a sliding fee scale for contraceptive service, the amount of the fee depending on family income and size of the family. Fees constitute 15 per cent of the Association's income; the balance comes from private donors. Marriage counseling, although a minor Association service, is a growing one. The Executive Director is Mrs. Carl B. Benson.

Marital difficulties are common with married persons who are mentally ill. This is not to say that most of those who have trouble in their marriages are mentally ill. But an important minority are. For this reason, those who treat mental illness do a substantial amount of

marriage counseling incidentally to treatment of their patients.<sup>3</sup> In Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri, there are mental hospitals and clinics that provide marriage counseling only for their mental patients and only as part of the over-all treatment of these patients. Some medical practitioners, of course, do the same thing for their private mental patients.

A special type of mental health institution is the child guidance clinic. This type of institution is concerned primarily with emotionally disturbed children, but must do a good deal of marriage counseling with parents, because a contributing cause of the children's problems often is conflict between parents. There are child guidance clinics in our area that do marriage counseling only in relation to treatment of their child patients.

The following three centers are examples of mental or guidance institutions that will not take marriage counseling cases as such, but that incidentally do a considerable amount of marriage counseling.<sup>4</sup> Some kinds of marital conflict cases are best referred to these institutions. All three have out-patient service.

*University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City 3, Kansas.*

The Medical Center conducts a Psychiatry Out-Patient Clinic for those who cannot afford private psychiatric examination and treatment. Financial eligibility must be established before medical assistance can be obtained from the Clinic. This is done through the Social Service Department at the Medical Center. There are no residence restrictions on those admitted as Clinic patients. Most staff members of the Medical School Department of Psychiatry take private patients, and appointments for consultations as private patients can be arranged through the secretary of the individual psychiatrist consulted.

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<sup>3</sup>In a report made in connection with this study, Dr. William F. Roth, Jr., in referring to the Out-Patient Clinic operated by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Kansas Medical School, stated: "Marriage counseling, per se, is not an activity of the Department of Psychiatry, nor is it often a primary or important objective of the practicing psychiatrist. The goal of the psychiatrist is the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional illness, of which marital discord is often a symptom or result. In cases in which mental illness or underlying personality conflict in one or both marital partners is the basis of marital maladjustment, the job of the psychiatrist is to diagnose and treat the underlying condition."

<sup>4</sup>Other similar public institutions in Kansas are the Out-Patient Clinic of the Topeka State Hospital; United States Veterans Administration Mental Hygiene Clinic, 3701 West 21st Street, Topeka; United States Veterans Administration Mental Hygiene Clinic, Wichita; Social Service, United States Veterans Administration Center, Wichita. In Kansas City, Missouri, similar public institutions are the Health Department General Hospital No. 2, 600 East 22nd Street; and United States Veterans Administration Mental Hygiene Clinic, 1828 Walnut Street.

The Veterans Administration treats only veterans with service-connected disabilities. All of the above institutions provide out-patient service.

*Hertzler Clinic, Neuropsychiatric Department, Halstead, Kansas.*

This is a private clinic, operated as a partnership by participating physicians, and supported by patients' fees. Fees in psychiatric cases are about ten dollars an hour of consultation time. The clinic has both in-patient and out-patient facilities. The Neuropsychiatric Department has a full-time psychiatrist and two full-time clinical psychologists.

Marital adjustment problems are common with psychoneurotics and alcoholics, and failing marriages are often what bring these people to the Clinic. If both spouses are patients, only rarely are they assigned to the same therapist. In marital conflict cases, the assumption of the staff is that if patients can make a normal adjustment to life, they can manage their own marriage problems.

*Wichita Guidance Center, 3422 East Douglas Avenue, Wichita 8, Kansas.*

This is a diagnostic, consultation, and treatment clinic concentrating on children with emotional and psychological problems. But a great deal of time is spent with parents whose children are receiving treatment from the Center.<sup>5</sup> Families who refer children for help many times have marital problems that bear indirectly on the children, and in such cases, the parents are counseled on their marital difficulties. In the past two years, about 150 cases received marriage counseling of this sort from the Center. This was about 12 per cent of the total number of cases handled by the Center during the period.

The Center works with children of all ages, but almost half of those who come to the agency are in the six to eleven age group. They are mostly children who are overly aggressive or overly withdrawn. In some cases, the Center acts as a consultation source for schools and social agencies, without referral of the children themselves. The Center gives psychological tests to infants, including some who are available for adoption. Infants not showing normal development are not recommended for present adoption placement. Staff members from the

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<sup>5</sup> *The Wichita Guidance Center, Twenty-Fourth Annual Report (1953)*, p. 5, describes in this way the parental role in child therapy:

In treating the problems of children, considerable time is spent with the parents. Except in unusual cases, the cause of the maladjustment lies in the adverse relationships between the child and those adults most closely associated with him. The personality of the child as expressed by his habits and patterns of adjustment is the result of learning. Parents play the greatest role in this education. Well-adjusted children reflect adequate care and handling at home, while maladjusted children indicate inadequate handling.

The problem often begins at home and can be best handled by a changed attitude on the part of the parents. Consequently, the focus of therapy frequently centers around the parents rather than the child.

Center also appear before about one hundred groups a year to show mental health films and discuss child development.

Funds for the Center come from the Community Chest, the city, the county, the Federal Government, and fees of those served. There are no residence restrictions, but in busy periods, preference is given to residents of Sedgwick County. Fees vary with ability to pay; the highest rate being \$7.50 per hour of interview time. The Clinic is open six days a week. The Director is Dr. Joseph E. Brewer.

This study was intended to be merely descriptive of existing marriage counseling agencies and services and not to consider changes in them. But a few suggestions that merit mentioning were brought out during the study. One of them is that agencies should make their marriage counseling services available to persons everywhere, not just to residents of the local community. Many parts of Kansas, for example, do not have sufficient population to support counseling facilities and need to draw on the facilities of communities that do. Until a more satisfactory means of financing the added burden is found, non-residents should be charged fees that will pay for the additional cost of serving them.

Many of those doing marriage counseling in the area believe that institutes and workshops should be held to consider their mutual problems. The desire is prevalent for more knowledge of what others are doing in the counseling field and for a better working relationship among agencies.

The need is also apparent for a clearer understanding by lawyers, judges, ministers, physicians, and social workers as to the kinds of cases they should refer for marriage counseling and the kinds they should try to counsel themselves. Common knowledge and intuition are enough of a guide in many cases, but not in all. And lastly, when cases are referred to marriage counselors by persons in other professions, some sort of acknowledgment or progress report should be made by the counselors to the referrers. More referrals would result if this were generally practiced. Professional people like to know something about the outcome of their cases, particularly when they assume the responsibility of turning them over to others.