ALMP

THE ALLIANCE FOR THE LIBERATION OF MENTAL PATIENTS
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NEWSLETTER FALL 1981

AT LAST

ALMP GAINS ACCESS TO HAVERFORD

OTHER STATE "HOSPITALS" INCLUDED

--by Bob Harris

We at the Alliance are happy to announce that, after two years of litigation, we have finally exacted a victorious settlement in our lawsuit for access to Haverford State Hospital and other state-run "mental hospitals" in Pennsylvania. In an order signed on May 11 by Eastern District Court Judge Alfred L. Luongo, ALMP was guaranteed the right to visit and distribute literature to inmates, to hold private meetings with inmates, and to conduct our advocacy efforts free of official harassment.

The major points of the settlement include:

VISITATION

ALMP members may visit inmates during visiting hours; visits may take place on the grounds or in the buildings of the institution. The only exceptions are areas of the institution designated in advance of the visit as off-limits to all visitors (not just the Alliance). At least one acceptable visiting area must be provided for each living unit in every "hospital." A visit is defined as "any interaction" between an inmate and an outsider, and a visitor is defined as anyone who is on the grounds of the institution "for the purpose of engaging in a visit."

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HAVERFORD PROJECT CONTINUES

--by Lenny Lapon

Two and a half years ago, in April of 1979, four members of the Alliance went to Haverford State Hospital to distribute a special edition of the ALMP Newsletter to the "patients" there. We also wanted to visit and talk with Haverford inmates about issues of common concern--legal rights, forced drugging, deaths and abuse at the "hospital," and "mental patients'" organizing.

As most readers are probably aware, we were met at the gate by Pa. State Police, Haverford "Hospital" Police, and members of the press--and arrested for trespassing. We were found not guilty one year later, after much inconvenience and more arrests.

On September 24th of this year, four members of ALMP again went to Haverford State Hospital to distribute literature, meet with inmates, and discuss common concerns. This time--2½ years after our original arrests--we were not arrested. In fact, we were "allowed" to meet privately with "patients" in a room of this psychiatric institution. In addition, during the previous week we had distributed and posted leaflets throughout HSH announcing the meeting on the 24th; we were assisted in this by the administration, which had the meeting announcements posted on all wards in the institution.

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