



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
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NEWS

JUNE J. CHRISTMAS, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY DEAN MARTIN BEGUN
CHAIRS MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Martin S. Begun, associate dean of the New York University School of Medicine, was appointed by Mayor Abraham Beame as chairman of the Advisory Board of the N.Y.C. Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, it was announced.

Dean Begun, who is well known for his concern for and knowledge of health care delivery, assumes the leadership of the 15-member board of which he has been a member for two years.

"We are pleased, indeed," commented Commissioner June J. Christmas, "to have Dean Begun's dynamic leadership of the Advisory Board. Not only does he bring to his position years of academic work and experience, but he also brings a commitment and determination to insure quality community-based mental hygiene services for residents of our City.

"The Board, in its role as adviser to the Department, has actively participated in the decisions regarding changes made necessary by the fiscal crisis," Dr. Christmas continued. "This kind of citizen involvement is critical to us as we continue to meet our mandate to develop long-range plans for essential mental hygiene services."

Under the leadership of Dean Begun, one of the first activities of the Board will be to sponsor a conference for legislators and policy makers to explain the critical issues facing the local mental hygiene system. They hope to hold the conference in March of 1977.

Mr. Begun has served as Associate Dean of the New York University School of Medicine and Post Graduate Medical School since 1966. In this post, he has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the schools, including budget and personnel supervision. He joined the medical school administration in 1963 as Assistant Dean.

Dean Begun has held various teaching positions including Assistant Professor of Medical Administration at NYU, lecturer in Political Science at Baruch College, and Instructor in the Overseas Division of the University of Maryland in Korea and Japan. He was Special Assistant to the President of the Institute of International Education from 1956 to 1963, with a two-year leave for military service in Korea. The Institute sponsors international student exchange programs.

A native New Yorker and graduate of the public-school system, Mr. Begun earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Masters Degree in Government from Columbia University.

The Advisory Board was formed after the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services was established in 1969. Prior to that the Community Mental Health Board had been responsible for mental hygiene services. Advisory Board members are appointed for four-year terms to the positions which are non-salaried.

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