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Officials of the State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission who retained a Columbia University sociologist to study some facets of the addiction problem have done an evaluation of his evaluation.

And the result, they say, shows that the study is unprofessional, subjective, bad sociology and not even what they paid \$296,440 for.

The sociologist, Dr. George Nash, has countered by saying that the study was never fully completed because the state failed to renew the final stage of the contract, that the specific paper singled out for criticism was only a "think piece" and never purported to be definitive, and that the study really cost \$360,000, not \$296,440.

Evaluating the Evaluators

The lack of accord that has now surfaced between Dr. Nash and the N.A.C.C. is endemic in the addiction treatment field. For there are increasing demands to evaluate programs, but along with them, questions about who will evaluate the evaluators.

Commission officials say that Dr. Nash was asked to be project director of a study undertaken by the Columbia Bureau of Applied Social Research, to determine how addicts begin using drugs, what keeps them going after they have started, and what it takes to get them to stop.

But officials say, Dr. Nash deviated from the assignment and instead produced a report that unfairly compares N.A.C.C. facilities with those of Phoenix House, which is a part of the city's Addiction Services Agency; presents no data to back up its conclusions; omits information that would have more accurately and less impressively described Phoenix's ability to return addicts to society; and in general is more impressionist than clinical in its approach.

Confirms Change in Goal

Dr. Nash, who left Columbia and recently began working with a private research group called Urban Resources, Inc., confirmed that he altered the original mission as outlined to include a comparison of several agencies treating addicts, but said that he felt this would be in the commission's best interests.

The specific report that has irked commission officials is entitled "Social Control in Therapeutic Communities for Treatment of Drug Addicts" and it was written by Dan Waldorf, one of Mr. Nash's assistants.

In it, Mr. Waldorf compared the Bayview Rehabilitation Center, which is generally regarded as one of the best in the N.A.C.C., with the Phoenix House at Hart Island, and the California Rehabilitation Center and Drug Abuse Service at Mendocino State Hospital in California.

Among Mr. Waldorf's points: "Homosexuality at Bayview was condoned with a 'cavalier, offhand attitude' that 'would never be tolerated at Phoenix Houses.'"

"Phoenix Houses rely on their residents to 'enforce or police the norms of the community.' But Bayview, although 'reasonably humane,' uses compulsory and punitive practices similar to those used in penal institutions, 'with little

thought of their therapeutic effect."

"Residents of Bayview expressed widespread resentment of it, whereas at Phoenix House I at Hart Island, 88 of the 90 residents interviewed said they felt the facility was truly a rehabilitation center rather than just a jail.

Dr. Harold Meiselas, a deputy commissioner of N.A.C.C. who is in charge of program planning and research, said, "We are not sniping at Phoenix House, but we simply were not given credit for what we've tried to create." Dr. Meiselas noted that New York State "is

paying for the Phoenix approach" by assisting in the funding of the city's Addiction Services Agency.

Dr. Meiselas also said that Mr. Waldorf had actually given no data to show that addicts treated by Phoenix, were, in fact, better off than those who were treated by N.A.C.C. or other facilities.

The commission has produced an evaluation of Mr. Waldorf's paper, entitled "Comments on Dan Waldorf's Paper on 'Social Control in Therapeutic Communities,'" which was written by Leon Brill, who is now director of planning under Dr.

Meiselas but who formerly worked with Dr. Nash at Columbia.

Mr. Brill contends that it was unsound to ask both Bayview and Phoenix patients the same questions about the likes and dislikes because "Phoenix Houses are directed by a firm hierarchy starting from Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal down . . . including an elite of graduates from other facilities, such as Synanon and Daytop Village, who are the true directors and guiding . . . spirits of each community. I have noted a hesi-

tancy on the part of many residents to 'badrap [speak ill of],

the program out of fear of repercussions."

Moreover, Mr. Brill notes that Phoenix prescreens and thus rejects about 75 per cent of all those who seek entrance, taking only those it considers the best-motivated patients. And, he says that N.A.C.C., which accepts almost any addict who wants to enter (less than half a dozen have been rejected in three years), has had a younger addict population than Phoenix. He says the younger addicts are harder to treat than the older ones.

Mr. Brill then states that on the basis of facts he got from

the Addiction Services Agency, only 20 of approximately 475 Phoenix House residents have been returned to the community and that A.S.A. "has not stated how long these 20 have been in the community, nor whether they received additional help from other persons as well."

And, he continues, "the figure of 475 represents the number actually held in Phoenix House and not the number who first came to the doors . . . and dropped out early. This kind of 'counting' had previously been used by Dr. [Efren] Ramirez [former head of A.S.A.] for his Puerto Rican facility."

Dr. Nash attributed the differences between his computing of how much his study cost and the state's figure to the fact that the study continued longer than the state wanted, apparently because the state neglected to tell the researchers to stop the research.

He also disclosed that he is continuing his research into the addiction problem and has agreed to do a 13-month, \$73,000 study of Phoenix. When Dr. Nash, a Vermonter, is in New York, he lives in a Phoenix House in Manhattan so as to better understand it, he said.