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Dr. W. Wayne Workman collection

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

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Finding Aid of

DR. W. WAYNE WORKMAN COLLECTION

1970-2011

NEAD 013

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Summary Information

Compiled By: Flora Smith

Creator: Dr. Wylie Wayne Workman

Date: 1970-2011; Bulk 1973-1993

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet. The collection consists of 18 folders in 3 document boxes.

Language: English

Abstract

Dr. W. Wayne Workman began the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project working in conjunction with Dr. Eva Doge from the Arkansas Department of Health in 1976. The aim of this project was to combat the high infant mortality rate in Mississippi County Arkansas. This collection consists of correspondence that spans a twenty-year period (1973-1993), administrative information, research, newspaper clippings concerning midwifery, vital statistics, resume and personnel information, education resources, speeches, and publications concerning nurse-midwife education, and issues in health care. This collection is the personal papers of Dr. W. Wayne Workman as it pertains to the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife project.

Acquisition

Materials in this collection were donated to Archives & Special Collections by Dr. W. Wayne Workman. Further additions to this collection are not expected.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Chuck Baclawski and Flora Smith.

Conditions Governing Access

This manuscript collection consists of physical materials. This collection has not been digitized. This collection is open for research use only in the Reading Room. It is not available for request through Interlibrary Loan. Please contact the archive via email (archives@astate.edu) at least a week in advance of your arrival to ensure the availability of the material

Rights Statement

Copyright has been transferred to Archives & Special Collection. Standard copyright laws (U. S. Title 17) still apply.

Preferred Citation

Dr. W. Wayne Workman Collection, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.

Biographical and Historical Notes

Dr. W. Wayne Workman

Dr Wylie Wayne Workman was born on November 3, 1921 in Vesta, Arkansas. In 1942, Wylie Wayne Workman joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. During his service he was stationed in the Pacific Theater during World War II from July 1943-May 1946. After leaving the Navy, Workman became a licensed - Page 3- Workman, Wayne Collection Finding Aid physician in the state of Arkansas in 1951. In 1967 he married Betty Bush with whom he had six children.

Dr. Workman began clinical practice in Mississippi County Arkansas in 1952. He worked as a practicing Obstetrition-Gynocologist, was chief of staff at Chickasawba Hospital (1963-1987), and was Mississippi County Health Director (1974-1988). In 1975, he organized the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program to combat the growing infant mortality problem in Arkansas. On April 1, 1988 Workman became the Medical Director of Women's Health at the Arkansas Department of Health in Little Rock, Arkansas. That same year he also began teaching Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), a career that lasted 16 years. UAMS named an award for Workman, shard with Dr. Haws, the HawkWorkman award. This is awarded to recipients who are deemed tireless contributors to the commitment of providing women and infants in the state of Arkansas with the best possible medical care.

Dr. Workman died on February 20, 2020 in Springdale, Arkansas.

Dr. Eva Dodge

Dr. Eva Dodge (July 24, 1896-March 20, 1990) was the daughter of a Maryland physician. She was the first woman to complete her residency at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine. Dr. Eva Dodge was a pioneer physician and educator in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. She was an advocate for maternal health care and sex education for young people in Arkansas and across the United States. Dodge was a worldwide influence through her work with the Pan American Medical Women's Alliance (PAMWA) as an obstetric consultant. In 1951 she was named woman of the year by the Arkansas Democrat. Dodge was also a leader in the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). In 1977 she received the organization's highest honor: the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal.

Mississippi Country Nurse-Midwife Project

Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project began through cooperative efforts on January 1, 1976 by Dr. Wayne Workman and Dr. Eva Dodge, from the Arkansas Department of health. A federal grant was obtained and a non-profit corporation was formed. The program had three objectives: 1. Ensure patients received better maternity care 2. Lower the infant mortality rate (Arkansas infant mortality rate in 1975 was 18.3; Mississippi County mortality rate was 34.9 in 1975.) 3. Expand the existing health care system.

A nurse-midwife would practice under the supervision of a board-certified obstetrician. They would provide quality, low cost pre and post-natal care to both mother and child from offices located in the local county health department. Mothers would deliver in a hospital. On July 1, 1976 Barbara Upshaw became the first certified midwife of the project. The program did succeed and was responsible for the drop in infant mortality from 34.9 in 1975 to 11.6 in 1991 (per 1,000 births) and was able to provide many low-income patients with quality maternity care. More than 6,000 children were delivered over the course of 26 years. However, the program never became self-sustainable and would always require government funding. Upon losing federal funds during the Reagan Administration, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) absorbed the program and later closed it.

Scope and Content Note

The Dr. W. Wayne Workman Collection consists of materials compiled by Dr. Workman during his involvement with the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project.

Arrangement

This collection consists of fourteen (14) series:

Series 1: Correspondence. The "Correspondence" series consists of correspondence between Dr. W. Wayne Workman and various doctors, nurses, and congressmen in relation to the Nurse-Midwife Project.

Series 2: Administration. The "Administration" series is comprised of various documents related to the establishment of the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife program including information packets, program descriptions, articles of incorporation, and employment contracts.

Series 3: "A Bold Step." "A Bold Step" was a booklet published as a report of the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality in cooperation with the Southern Governors' Association and Southern Legislative Conference in 1989. Information on the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife program was included in the booklet. This series also contains press conference information and newspaper clippings about the booklet and program.

Series 4: Resumes and Personnel. The "Resume and Personnel" series contains the resumes of nurse-midwives that applied to be a part of the program, correspondence with potential employees, lists of physicians and clinics, and personnel information. This series may include sensitive personal information.

Series 5: Regulations, Guidelines, and Policies. The "Regulations, Guidelines, and Policies" series contains information concerning the training of nurse-midwives, guidelines for implementing nurse-midwife projects, and regulations concerning nurse-midwives.

Series 6: Manuals and Guides. The "Manuals and Guides" series contains four items: Photocopy of "The Guide for Midwives", "Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Procedures and Statement of Practices", "Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program Manual November 1986", and "Antepartum Policies."

Series 7: Education Information. The "Education Information" series contains brochures and information pertaining to educational courses and programs offered to nurse-midwives.

Series 8: Research. The “Research” series contains literature reviewed by Dr. W. Wayne Workman during two phases of the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project: The beginning and the ending.

Series 9: Statistics. The “Statistics” series contains four folders: Arkansas Vital Statistics, Mississippi County Arkansas Vital Statistics, Fee Schedules and Statistics, and Handwritten Statistical Analysis.

Series 10: Dr. W. Wayne Workman Resumes and Speeches. The “Dr. W. Wayne Workman Resumes and Speeches” series contains the resume of Dr. W. Wayne Workman and also copies of speeches given at conferences.

Series 11: Newspaper Clippings. The “Newspaper Clippings” series contains various newspaper clippings related to the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program, Midwives, and Teen Pregnancy.

Series 12: Bernie Weixelman Gentle Giant Award. The “Bernie Weixelman Gentle Giant Award” series contains correspondence, press releases, and newspaper clipping relating to the Searle Gentle Giant Award received by nurse-midwife Bernie Weixelman.

Series 13: Media. The “Media” series contains three DVDs and two cassette tapes. Two DVDs contains news reports on Bernie Weixelman and her role as midwife in the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project. One DVD is also a compilation of photos of office staff. The cassette tapes are interviews with Margery Hale and Dr. W. Wayne Workman.

Series 14: Publications. The “Publications” series include booklets published by colleges offering nurse-midwife education programs, vital statistics, and program manuals.

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following resource in Archives & Special Collections holding:

- Mississippi County Nurse Midwife Collection: This collection documents the business side of the project including policies, program information, board minutes, and budgets.

Other materials in Archives & Special Collections holdings may relate to this topic. Please contact Archives & Special Collections at archives@astate.edu for further research assistance.

Subjects

- Federal aid to maternal health services
- Infant health services
- Infants--Mortality
- Infants--Mortality--United States
- Maternal health services
- Maternal health services – Utilization
- Midwives--Legal status, laws, etc.
- Newborn infants--Mortality
- Nursing specialties
- Obstetrics--Social aspects
- Team midwifery

Names

- Mississippi County (Ark.) (n80113016)
- Dodge, Eva F. (Eva Francette), 1896-1990
- Workman, W. Wayne, Dr (Wylie Wayne), 1921-2020

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Correspondence, 1973-1993

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
1	Early Correspondence	1973-1978
2	Late Correspondence	1980-1993

Series 2: Administration

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates
3	1976

Series 3: "A Bold Step"

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
4	Booklet, Agenda, and Newspaper Clippings	1989

Series 4: Resumes and Personnel

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates	Conditions Governing Access
5	1977-1991	This series may include sensitive personal information.

Series 5: Regulations, Guidelines, and Policies

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates
6	1976-1984, 1988-1989

Series 6: Manuals and Guides

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates
7	1984, 1986, undated

Series 7: Education Information

Box 2:

Folder Number	Dates
8	1972-1978, 1981-1982, 1986-1989

Series 8: Research

Box 2:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
9	Early Research	1971-1977
10	Later Research	1983-1991

Series 9: Statistics

Box 2:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
11	Arkansas Vital Statistics	1973-1987
12	Mississippi County Arkansas Vital Statistics	1970-1982
13	Fee Schedules and Statistics	1979-1989, 1993
14	Handwritten Statistical Analysis	1970-1982

Series 10: Dr. W. Wayne Workman Resumes and Speeches

Box 2:

Folder Number	Dates
15	1976-1995, undated

Series 11: Newspaper Clippings

Box 2:

Folder Number	Dates
16	1979-1983

Series 12: Bernie Weixelman Gentle Giant Award

Box 2:

Folder Number	Dates
17	1992-1994

Series 13: Media

Box 3:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
18	DVDs: News Reports and Pictures	1993

Item	Description	Dates
Cassette Tape 1	Interview: Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project. Margery Hale. Burdette, AR. Tape 1 of 1 (copy)	2010 December 10
Cassette Tape 2	Interview: Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project. Dr. Wayne Workman. Springdale, AR.	2011 January 22

Series 14: Publications

Box 2:

Publication Title	Publication Date
Arkansas Vital Statistics 1980. Arkansas Department of Health Division of Health Statistics (2 copies)	1979-1983
High Risk Infant Registry for Arkansas by R. Lee Henney, Ph.D. (Includes correspondence inside the publication)	1981 November
Mississippi County Nurse Midwife Program Manual	1982 January
Adolescent Pregnancy: Measuring the Program in Arkansas: A Research Study by Stephanie Parker, R.N., M.Ed. and Janice Watkins, R.N.	Circa 1980s

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
19	Additional Publications	1981, 1983, 1988-1992