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Finding Aid of

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY NURSE- MIDWIFE PROJECT COLLECTION

1976-2010

NEAD 016

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Summary Information

Compiled By: Flora Smith

Creator: Dr. W. Wayne Workman; Eva Dodge; Margery Hale

Date: 1976-2010; Bulk, 1976-1984

Physical Description: 0.41 linear feet. The collection consists of 12 folders and 1 cassette tape in one document box.

Language: English

Abstract

Dr. W. Wayne Workman and Dr. Eva Dodge began the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project in 1976 in order to combat the high infant mortality rate in Mississippi County. This collection consists of documents that pertain to the business side of the project including policies and program information, board minutes, budgets, fees, financial documents, contract information, correspondence (general and personnel related), grant information, structure addition, convention information, and newspaper clippings.

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

Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project Collection, Item Name and Date, Box and Folder Numbers, Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library, Arkansas State University.

Biographical and Historical Notes

Mississippi County 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 and director 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.

Dr. W. Wayne Workman

Dr. Workman (November 3, 1921-February 20, 2020) 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.

Dr. Eva Dodge

Dr. Eva Dodge (July 24, 1896-March 20, 1990) 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.

Scope and Content Note

The Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project Collections consists of documents that pertain to the business side of the project including policies and program information, board minutes, budgets, fees, financial documents, contract information, correspondence (general and personnel related), grant information, structure addition, convention information, and newspaper clippings. In addition to the documents, there is one cassette tape which contains an interview with Margery Hale about the project. The Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project Collection was compiled by the employees of the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program and only pertains to the administration of the project.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in eight series.

Series 1: Policies and Program Information. The "Policies and Program Information" series consists of one folder. It contains information specific to the establishment of the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program.

Series 2: Administration. The "Administration" series consists of documents pertaining to the functions of the project. Included in this series are board minutes, financial documents, contract information, and insurance information.

Series 3: Correspondence. The "Correspondence" series contains documents related to correspondence pertaining to support and criticism of the program, general information, along with personnel correspondence including recruitment letters.

Series 4: Grant Information. The "Grant Information" series contains documents relating to fundraising efforts through requests for grants and requests for funds from local businesses.

Series 5: Addition to Mississippi County Health Department Building. The "Addition to Mississippi County Health Department Building" series contains information relating to an addition built on to the Mississippi County Health Department Building. Included in this folder are floorplans, correspondence with designers and contractors.

Series 6: Convention Information. The "Convention Information" series contains information relating to personnel attending conventions including a copy of the leave policy, budget information for costs incurred, and a list of available conventions.

Series 7: Newspaper Clippings. The "Newspaper Clippings" series contains photocopies of newspaper clipping about legislative measures that led to the closing of the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program.

Series 8: Interview. The "Interview" series contains a master copy of the interview conducted on December 17, 2010 with Margery Hale in Burdette, Arkansas about the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project. This cassette tape is currently stored in a holding file for this collection.

Related Materials

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

- Dr. W. Wayne Workman Collection: This collection the personal papers of Dr. W. Wayne Workman as it pertains to the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife project.

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

- Infant health services
- Infants--Mortality
- Infants--Mortality--United States
- Maternal health services
- Midwives--Legal status, laws, etc.
- Newborn infants--Mortality
- Nursing specialties
- Team midwifery

Names

- Mississippi County (Ark.)
- Dodge, Eva
- Hale, Margery
- Workman, W. Wayne, Dr. (Wylie Wayne), 1921-2010

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Policies and Program Information

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates
1	1977-1984

Series 2: Receipts and Expenditures

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
2	Board Minutes	1976-1984
	Scope and Contents: This folder contains board minutes from the Mississippi County Nurse Midwife Program Directors' Meetings.	
3	Budgets and Fees	1977-1984

	Scope and Contents: This folder contains information on the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program Budget, fees charged, and statistics on births.	
4	Financial Documents	1977-1984
	Scope and Contents This folder contains financial information in the form of copies of cancelled checks, bank statements, and correspondence with financial institutions and the legislature concerning finances.	
5	Contract Information	1976-1984
	Scope and Contents: This folder contains contracts between the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project and employees, utilities, and office equipment leases.	
6	Insurance	1982-1986
	Scope and Contents: This folder contains documents and correspondence relating to employee insurance and liability insurance for the program.	

Series 3: Correspondence

Box 1:

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
7	General Correspondence	1977 November 25 – 1984 October 18
	Scope and Contents: This subseries contains correspondence relating to the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program. Included in this correspondence are letters both supporting and criticizing the Program, requests for preceptorships, requests for physicians to be a part of the Program, and general information about the Program.	
8	Personnel Correspondence	1981 February 6 – 1983 December 30
	Scope and Contents: This subseries contains correspondence relating to personnel matters of the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Program. Included in this correspondence is recruitment efforts to bring in additional nurse-midwives.	

Series 4: Grant Information

Box 1:

Folder Number	Dates
9	1982-1983

Series 5: Addition to Mississippi County Health Department**Box 1:**

Folder Number	Folder Name	Dates
10	Building Expansion	1980-1981

Series 6: Convention Information**Box 1:**

Folder Number	Dates
11	1978-1984

Series 7: Newspaper Clippings**Box 1:**

Folder Number	Dates
12	1982-1984

Series 8: Interview**Description**

A cassette tape containing the master copy of the interview conducted on December 17, 2010 with Margery Hale in Burdette, Arkansas about the Mississippi County Nurse-Midwife Project. This cassette tape is currently stored in a holding file for this collection.