

# BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

Records, 1921- 1949 (with gaps)

Charities Collection - CC 25

3 manuscript boxes	Processed October 1999 by Frances Maria Medina
15 linear inches	Supervising Archivists:
Accession number: 1999.058	Claire Goodwin and Joan Gearin

ACQUISITION: In 1911, the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local and international welfare and charitable organizations. With the passage of time, this collection took on historical significance and in 1991, it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Because neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social Work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College Archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

ACCESS: Unrestricted.

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## HISTORY:

The Boston Council of Social Agencies was founded in December 1920 after various conferences between social agencies in Boston, eventually electing James Jackson the Council's first president. The Council's aim was to be a neutral council of Boston area social agencies, with its object "to provide in a regular way continuous opportunities for executives and workers in the different fields of the service to explain to each other their respective aims, purposes and methods of work."<sup>1</sup> By the end of the first year, 176 agencies joined the Council, including the City Missionary Society, Boston Children's Aid Society, Infant's Hospital, and the Boston YMCA. Each member agency belonged to a particular department such as Children, Family, Employment and Industrial Conditions, and Health. Each department held meetings and forums to meet others in the social work

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<sup>1</sup> First Annual Report of the Executive Secretary, Boston: 1922.

field and to discuss problems the agencies faced in their particular line of social work, from recruitment of volunteers to emergency care of infants under two.

In 1944 the Council changed its name to the Greater Boston Community Council to reflect the increasing participation of agencies outside of Boston. This new Council had as its purpose “to study the social and health needs of the area, to plan constructive action for meeting these social and health needs effectively, to interpret the need and the services to the public, to coordinate the work of public departments and private organizations concerned with social and health services, and to promote mutually helpful exchange of ideas, experience and methods relating to these services.”<sup>2</sup> Programs created by this new agency included daycare facilities, a volunteer office, an information center for returning servicemen and their families, youth activities; and an information service for the public which answered questions about health and social services in Greater Boston.

In 1949 the Council merged with the Greater Boston Community Fund to form United Community Services of Metropolitan Boston. This organization also went through many name changes and finally emerged as the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, still active today in the Greater Boston area and still serving the needs of children, youth, the elderly, and others through a variety of programs and initiatives.

#### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

The records for the Boston Council of Social Agencies (1921-1949) constitute three manuscript boxes and a flat box. The collection consists of Bulletins (1922-1949), Annual Reports (1921-1947), various Studies (1927-1943), and other literature. Bulletins are either bound or loose and include calendars, reports of the Purchasing Bureau, notices of conferences and other events, and agency news. A subseries of the Bulletins is the War Bulletins, published between 1941 and 1944. Annual Reports consist of a list of the previous year’s activities, department and committee news, financial statements, by-laws, constitutions, and list of officers and member agencies. Studies are on various social work topics, including vacation facilities for children and rooming housed in the South End of Boston. Two other items, “Proposed Standards of Membership” (1935), and “Shall We Form a Greater Boston Community Council?” (1944) are also part of the collection.

This collection chronicles the first stage of the life of the Boston Council of Social Agencies, and is interesting for people who want to understand the concept of social work as it pertained in the early half of this century. This collection is also important because it chronicles a part of the history of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, a thriving organization that is still in existence.

#### **CONTAINER LIST:**

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<sup>2</sup> Twenty-third Annual Report, Boston: 1943-44.

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS	
		<b>Series I. Annual Reports</b>	
1	1	1921-1922	
	2	1923-1924	
	3	1925-1926	
	4	1927-1928	
	5	1929-1930	
	6	1931	
	7	1932-1933	
	8	1935, 1937	
	9	1939	
	10	1941	
	11	1942	
	12	1943	
	13	1944	
	14	1945-1946	
	15	1947	
			<b>Series II: Bulletins</b>
		16	1922-1926
	17	1928-1933	
2	1	1934-1936	
	2	1936-1940	
(4)	(2)	1941-1944 War Bulletins	
(4)	(3)	1940-1949	
2		<b>Series III: Studies</b>	
	3	<i>Report on Chronic Disease in Boston, 1927</i>	
	4	<i>Report of the Personnel Committee of the Staff Council, 1928</i>	
	5	<i>Review of Social Statistics, December 1934</i>	
	6	<i>Report of a Study of the Organized Care of the Sick..., September-October 1934</i>	
	7	<i>Study of Boston Social and Health Agencies, April 1935</i>	
	8	<i>A Study of the Social and Health Agencies and Hospitals of Boston, 1935</i>	
	9	<i>Facilities for Convalescent Care in Boston, June 1938</i>	
	3	1	<i>Resources in Boston for Aiding Discharged Prisoners, March 1938</i>
2		<i>Unmet Social and Health Needs of Boston, February 1939</i>	
3		<i>Extent of Vacation Facilities for Children Known to Boston Social Agencies, May 1939</i>	
4		<i>A Guide for Referring Children to Boston Child Placing Agencies and Unmarried Mothers to Boston Maternity Hospitals, January 1940</i>	

	5	<i>Study of the Facilities of Social Agencies and the Work Projects Administration in Boston for the Care and Training of Pre-School Children, January 1940</i>
	6	<i>Study of Relief Practices of Private Family Agencies in Boston, 1941 (duplicate)</i>
	7	<i>Costs of Food, Clothing, Board Rates and Case Loans in Twelve Boston Children's Agencies, 1943</i>
(4)	(1)	<i>A Study of Rooming Houses in the South End of Boston, March 1934</i>
3		<b>Series IV: Other Literature</b>
	8	"Proposed Standards of Membership", 1935
	9	"Shall We Form a Greater Boston Community Council?", 1944
4	1	<i>A Study of Rooming Houses in the South End of Boston, March 1934</i>
		War Bulletins, 1941-1944
		Loose Bulletins, 1940-1949 with gaps