

ROCKEFELLER NAMES NEW MENTAL AIDE

Miller Given Hoch Post in
Middle of Controversy

By RICHARD L. MADDEN
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ALBANY, Jan. 29—After a 13-month search for a Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Governor Rockefeller promoted Dr. Alan D. Miller to the post today.

Dr. Miller, who is 43 years old and has been associate commissioner for community services in the department, will take charge of the state's largest and most expensive agency.

The commissioner's post has been vacant since the death of Dr. Paul H. Hoch on Dec. 15, 1964. Dr. Christopher F. Terrence, who has been serving as acting commissioner, will resume his previous job as first deputy commissioner, Mr. Rockefeller said.

Dr. Miller's appointment, which is subject to confirmation by the Senate, takes effect next Tuesday. The job pays \$29,875 a year. The Governor said earlier that he had been hampered in his search for a new commissioner by the relatively low pay of the post.

Dr. Miller, a quiet-spoken, graying man, who plays the viola as a hobby, steps into the commissionership job at a time when the state's mental hygiene program is the subject of a controversy between the Governor and Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The Democratic Senator charged recently that some patients in state institutions were "worse off than animals in a zoo," and has asserted that the state has not taken full advantage of available Federal funds to help the mentally retarded. The Republican Governor has accused Mr. Kennedy of playing politics with mental retardation.

Will Fill Vacancies

As commissioner, Dr. Miller will administer a staff of 47,000 employes — doctors, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, attendants, and others — who care for nearly 111,000 patients at 19 state hospitals and 10 state schools for the mentally retarded.

The care of the mentally ill and retarded in institutions is the state's most costly direct service, and Mr. Rockefeller has requested \$299-million for it in his budget for the fiscal year starting April 1.

In an interview, Dr. Miller said his first task would be to fill vacancies in the department's staff. At present, he noted, there are eight vacancies in the second-echelon rank of



Associated Press

PROMOTED: Dr. Alan D. Miller was appointed Commissioner of Mental Hygiene by Governor Rockefeller.

assistant and deputy commissioners. Asserting that "key people are missing at decision-making levels," he said:

"There is no question that the first part of my first day on the job will be trying to fill these positions. "There is a shortage of qualified people throughout the country at all levels—administrative, clinical, research and other."

Mr. Rockefeller has proposed the creation of 4,847 new jobs in the department in the state's next fiscal year, but state officials have said they might not be able to fill all of them.

Dr. Miller, who was born in New York City, joined the department in July, 1964. Previously he had been associate chief of operation research in the community research and services branch of the National Institutes of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md.

He is a graduate of Amherst College, New York University College of Medicine and Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. He also received post-graduate training in clinical and social psychiatry at the University of London.

Dr. Miller joined the United States Public Health Service in April, 1964. He subsequently served as Director of the Richmond, Va., Municipal Hospital, staff psychiatrist and director of the Mental Health Study Center of the National Institute of Mental Health in Princes Georges County and mental health program director of the Public Health Service Regional Office in Denver.

He lives with his wife, Judith and their three daughters and two sons in Delmar, a suburb of Albany.