

# State mental chief to quit in shakeup

By BARBARA YUNCKER

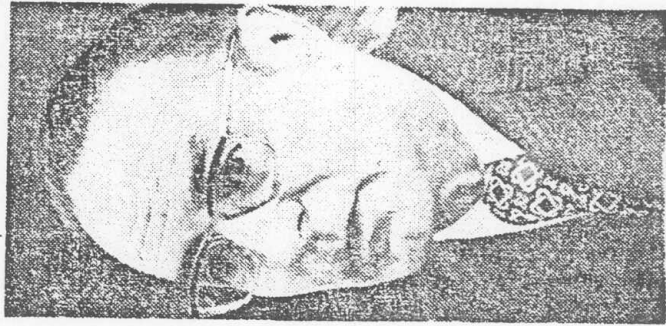
State Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dr. Lawrence C. Kolb has told Gov. Carey he will not remain in office when state services for the mentally ill, the retarded and drug and alcohol abusers are drastically revamped next year.

This is the first of many complications expected as the Carey Administration makes plans to restructure all its mental health programs.

Recruitment and budget will be equally sticky. The programs cost approximately \$1 billion a year now and the state hopes to hold the line.

However, Albany sources doubt this will be possible because of the need for more administrators in the new setup.

Kolb has told close associates that his three years as commissioner have been "the least satisfying of my professional life" in spite of such achievements as improved patient evaluation, treatment, staff recruiting programs and warm praise for Carey and Dr. Kevin Cahill, the Governor's special assistant for health.



LAWRENCE KOLB  
Out by January.

## ACADEMIC CAREER

Before Kolb, now 66, became commissioner, he spent two decades as professor and chairman of psychiatry at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is a past president of the American Psychiatric Assn. and editor of a major textbook on psychiatry.

He has told Carey he wants to leave by the end of January to resume private practice—which he maintained in a limited way while at Columbia—here and in Albany.

The Governor last month signed bills which dismantle the present Dept. of Mental Hygiene and Office of Drug Abuse Services and recast them, effective next April, into three offices: Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (the new words for drug addiction and other problems).

They are offices rather than departments because the state constitution limits departments to 20 and there weren't two vacancies. Units will be headed by a director, with the person chosen to run education and prevention serving as chairman.

Thus there will be five rel-

atively autonomous officials reporting to Carey through Cahill, instead of the two now in office: Kolb and Daniel Klepak, commissioner of ODAS.

There are Albany reports that Klepak will not remain in the downgraded drug job.

There is speculation that he may be moved to head the

## FURTHER SPLIT

The first two offices will be headed by commissioners. The third will be divided into three areas—Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, Substance Abuse and Education and Prevention.

Each of those three sub-Social Services Dept., but he minimized the reports without actually denying them.

"I do what the Governor I work for asks me to do. So far I have not been asked to do anything but stay in place and prepare the re-organization," he told The Post today.

Klepak is a veteran of 31 years in state service in several departments, serving most recently before the drug job as Associate Commissioner of Health.

Cahill conceded today that recruiting will be "terribly hard in an election year."