
Finding Aid to the Baby Hygiene Committee Records, 1909-1964MS 0051

Finding aid prepared by California Historical Society staff.

California Historical Society

678 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA, 94105

415-357-1848

reference@calhist.org

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Title: Baby Hygiene Committee records

Date (inclusive): 1909-1964

Date (bulk): 1909-1958

Collection Number: MS 0051

Creator: Association of American University Women. San Francisco branch. Baby Hygiene Committee.

Physical Description: 11 boxes(5.5 Linear feet)

Repository: California Historical Society

678 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA, 94105

415-357-1848

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URL: <http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/>

Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Abstract: Consists of administrative records, including constitution and bylaws, minutes (1909-1950), correspondence (1909-1955), annual and monthly reports (1910-1958), financial records (1923-1949), case histories, and membership lists. With these are newspaper clippings and printed materials pertaining to the organization's activities and scope of interests, particularly child and infant health care and welfare, related health and education of mothers, and public health. Includes records of Community Chest of San Francisco, of which the Baby Hygiene Committee was a member from 1922 to 1943; Children's Committee of Associated Charities (1919-1922); Certified Milk Fund (1910-1912); Mother's Milk Bank; and Association of American University Women (1949-1964), San Francisco branch.

Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Baby Hygiene Committee Records, MS 51, California Historical Society.

Separated Materials

Photographs have been transferred to the Photography Collection, shelved as MSP 51.

Related Collections

Mothers' Milk Bank, Inc. Records, 1945-1978, MS 3532

Scope and Contents

Consists of administrative records, including constitution and bylaws, minutes (1909-1950), correspondence (1909-1955), annual and monthly reports (1910-1958), financial records (1923-1949), case histories, and membership lists. With these are newspaper clippings and printed materials pertaining to the organization's activities and scope of interests, particularly child and infant health care and welfare, related health and education of mothers, and public health. Includes records of Community Chest of San Francisco, of which the Baby Hygiene Committee was a member from 1922 to 1943; Children's Committee of Associated Charities (1919-1922); Certified Milk Fund (1910-1912); Mother's Milk Bank; and Association of American University Women (1949-1964), San Francisco branch.

Included in the papers is the history of the committee, as well as communications with doctors and hospitals concerning the various projects. Of particular interest are the case histories and a 1927 survey of mothers and children who attended the health center. There are several articles about child raising, spanning the years 1909 to 1959, as well as photographs of the members and clients.

History

In May of 1909, a group of concerned women formed the Certified Milk Fund Committee of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae in order Francisco's poor." Aided by local dairies, the committee successfully reduced infant mortality through their city-wide drive for uncontaminated milk. In addition to supplying milk, the Milk Fund Committee offered instruction in the care and feeding of foster babies.

They expanded their program in 1917 with the founding of the Childrens' Health Center. Functioning as "an educational center for all mothers," the center provided care for infants, foster children and the "older run about" stage. In the spirit of "initiating projects in the interest of child health," the Committee then developed programs for prenatal and postnatal care for mothers; classes and conferences; and examinations and vaccination clinics. Concerned about family planning, they established the Maternal Health Committee in-1929 to offer instructions in birth control.

In 1918, the committee changed its-name to the Baby Hygiene Committee. From 1922 to 1943, the Baby Hygiene Committee operated as a member of the Community Chest. The committee defined their interest as the "studying, operating and getting projects ready for acceptance by a public or private agency for city-wide application." Among their programs later adopted by the San Francisco Department of Public Health were the Well Baby Centers; Supervision of Private Boarding Homes for Infants and Children; Cardiac Diagnostic Center for Children; and, Hospital-Based Postnatal Care for Mothers.

With the closing of the Childrens' Health Center, the Baby Hygiene Committee embarked on a new project in 1945. They organized the Mother's Milk Bank, whose purpose was to provide milk for sick or premature babies. Included in this program was the promotion of natural child birth, breast feeding and rooming-in, in which the infant stayed with the mother in the hospital. From its inception in 1909, the Baby Hygiene Committee played a major part in the civic reform of San Francisco.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

American Association of University Women. San Francisco Branch.

Children's Certified Milk Fund (San Francisco, Calif.)

Children's Committee of Associated Charities.

Community Chest of San Francisco.

Mothers' Milk Bank, Inc. (San Francisco, Calif.).

Child health services--California--San Francisco.

Child welfare--California--San Francisco.

Children--Health and hygiene--California--San Francisco.

Infants--Care--California--San Francisco.

Maternal and infant welfare--California--San Francisco.

Maternal health services--California--San Francisco.

Membership lists.

Milk hygiene--California--San Francisco.

Minutes.

Parenting--Study and teaching--California--San Francisco.

Public health--California--San Francisco.

Women in charitable work--California--San Francisco.

Box 1, Folder 1	History of the Baby Hygiene Committee (BHC)
Box 1, Folder 2	Constitution, by-laws 1911-1947
	Minutes
Box 1, Folder 3	1909-1917
Box 1, Folder 4	1918-1921
Box 1, Folder 5	1925-1931
Box 1, Folder 6	1933-1935
Box 1, Folder 7	Executive Committee minutes 1933-1935
Box 1, Folder 8	1939-1942
Box 1, Folder 9	AAUW minutes about BHC 1942-1947
Box 1, Folder 10	1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 11	1946-1950
	Correspondence
Box 2, Folder 12	1909-1910
Box 2, Folder 13	1911-1919
Box 2, Folder 14	Correspondence with the American Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality 1910-1911

Box 2, Folder 15	1920-1921
Box 2, Folder 16	1922
Box 2, Folder 17	1923
Box 2, Folder 18	1924-1925
Box 2, Folder 19	1926-1927
Box 2, Folder 20	1928-1929
Box 2, Folder 21	1930-1932
Box 2, Folder 22	1933
Box 2, Folder 23	1934
Box 3, Folder 24	1935-1936
Box 3, Folder 25	1937-1941
Box 3, Folder 26	1942
Box 3, Folder 27	1943
Box 3, Folder 28	1944
Box 3, Folder 29	1945
Box 3, Folder 30	1946-1947
Box 3, Folder 31	1948-1949
Box 3, Folder 32	1950-1955
Box 3, Folder 33	undated
	Reports
Box 4, Folder 34	Annual Reports of the BHC 1910-1948
Box 4, Folder 35-38	Monthly Reports 1911-1952
Box 4, Folder 39	Miscellaneous Reports 1921-1958
Box 4, Folder 40	Committee Talks 1922-1941
Box 5, Folder 41	Treasurer's Reports 1923-1926
Box 5, Folder 42	Budget Notes 1923-1935
Box 5, Folder 43	Treasurer's Reports 1933-1935
Box 5, Folder 44	Expenditures 1934-1941
Box 5, Folder 45-46	Treasurer's Reports 1939-1949
Box 5, Folder 47	Treasurer's Miscellaneous
Box 6	Treasurer's Reports of the BHC. [Includes checkbooks, receipts and bank accounts] 1940's
	Case Histories of the BHC
Box 7, Folder 48	A-M
Box 7, Folder 49	N-R
Box 7, Folder 50	S-Z
Box 7, Folder 51	Committee Statistics on Infant Mortality 1910-1919
Box 7, Folder 52	Certified Milk Fund Records 1910-1912
Box 7, Folder 53	Publications by BHC members 1916-1926
Box 7, Folder 54	Children's Committee of Associated Charities 1919-1922
Box 8, Folder 55-56	Insurance Policies 1922-1944
Box 8, Folder 57	Regulations Concerning Clinic Licenses 1933
Folder 8, Folder 58-59	Directories of Members and Donors 1909-1948, undated
Box 8, Folder 60	Survey of Childrens' Health Center 1927
Box 8, Folder 61	Immunization Records 1940-1944
Box 8, Folder 62	Program Announcements 1943-1956
Box 8, Folder 63	Appeals for Financial Aid 1942
Box 8, Folder 64	Forms and Instruction Sheets undated
Box 8, Folder 65-66	Rooming-In 1940-1950s
	The Community Chest
Box 9, Folder 67	By-laws

Box 9, Folder 68-69	Correspondence 1922-1946
Box 9, Folder 70	Applications 1923-1941
Box 9, Folder 71	Financial Reports 1925-1933
Box 9, Folder 72	Remittance Statements 1928-1938
Box 9, Folder 73	Financial Reports 1934-1942
Box 9, Folder 74	Report to Audit Bureau 1927-1941
Box 9, Folder 75	Minutes 1933-1942
Box 9, Folder 76	Monthly Newsletter 1924-1935
Box 9, Folder 77	Miscellaneous
	Mothers' Milk Bank (MMB)
Box 10, Folder 78	Mothers' Milk Bank Minutes 1944-1948
Box 10, Folder 79	Reports 1945-1947
Box 10, Folder 80	AAWU Reports on Ads 1942-1947
Box 10, Folder 81	MMB Correspondence 1945-1953
Box 10, Folder 82	MMB Membership Lists 1948-1949
Box 10, Folder 83	MMB Bank Statements 1946-1947
Box 10, Folder 84	Treasurer's Reports 1946-1949
Box 10, Folder 85	Finances 1944-1948
Box 10, Folder 86	Newspaper Clippings of MMB 1948-1950
Box 10, Folder 87	MMB Miscellaneous
Box 10, Folder 88	Certified Milk Fund clippings 1909-1911
Box 10, Folder 89-90	Clippings of the BHC 1920-1959
Box 10, Folder 91	Photographs
Box 10, Folder 92	Mrs. Grauper's Notebook
Box 10, Folder 93	Miscellaneous
Box 11, Folder 94	Association of American University Women, Bulletins 1949-1964
Box 11, Folder 95	Association of American University Women, Miscellaneous
Box 11, Folder 96	Child Care Publications
Box 11, Folder 97	Child Welfare
Box 11, Folder 98	Children's Health Centers, Nurseries, etc.
Box 11, Folder 99	Children's Private School Surveys 1938-1942
Box 11, Folder 100	Dairy Legislation
Box 11, Folder 101	Public Health
Box 11, Folder 102	Social Work and Education
Box 11, Folder 103	State Board of Health Publications 1914-1926
Box 11, Folder 104	U.S. Department of Labor Publications 1922-1930
Box 11, Folder 105	Women's Suffrage 1911