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DALLAS--A training project to help state agencies develop programs for rehabilitating welfare recipients has been undertaken by the School of Allied Health Professions at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

One conference on the problem already has been held and plans are being drawn for another to be held here in the spring.

The approach, according to Dr. Donald A. Pool, chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Science at the health professions school, is to get state rehabilitation and state welfare agencies to work together.

Under a grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Social and Rehabilitation Service, the first conference involved the heads of state rehabilitation and welfare agencies in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, in addition to regional HEW personnel.

The spring conference will be designed to teach methods of evaluating rehabilitation projects.

"There are basic kinds of things done to develop coordination of services between vocational rehabilitation and welfare agencies with the ultimate goal of getting the welfare recipient back to work," said Dr. Pool.

In the area of rehabilitation, this includes work evaluation, counselling and guidance, social and personal adjustment training, work conditioning, job placement and followup. From the welfare agency viewpoint, casework and family problems are involved.

The department chairman said that the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the State Public Welfare Commission cooperate in a demonstration rehabilitation project in Dallas.

The allied health professions school has a program leading to a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation services.

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