

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: In memoriam: Dr. Dean Brooks, 1916-2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of Dr. Brooks on Oregon State Hospital
- Dr. Brooks' innovative therapeutic style
- Dr. Brooks' belief in importance of treating patients with dignity and humanity
- Filming of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- Dr. Brooks' role in film
- Contributions of Dr. Brooks to Oregon and to people and families affected by mental illness

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Dr. Dean Brooks, the former superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital, died May 30, 2013 at the age of 96. Dr. Brooks was the superintendent at the State Hospital from 1955 to 1981, and while he did much to improve patient care during his tenure, he was best known for inviting the makers of the Oscar-winning film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" into the hospital in 1974-75.

Dean Kent Brooks was born on July 22, 1916. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and an M.D. from the university's Kansas City, Kansas, campus. During World War II, he served in the Navy as a medical officer in the Pacific.

Dr. Brooks was known in his field as an innovator. His approach, unusual for its day, included letting patients wear their own clothes, rather than hospital uniforms, and taking patients on therapeutic trips into the wilderness. Dr. Brooks achieved even greater renown in the mid-1970s, after he agreed to let the director Milos Forman film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" on location at the hospital.

In the movie, released in 1975 and based on Ken Kesey's 1962 novel, Dr. Brooks portrayed Dr. Spivey, the well-meaning but weak-willed psychiatrist who directs the mental hospital in which the drama unfolds. The film starred Jack Nicholson as patient R. P. McMurphy and Louise Fletcher as the tyrannical Nurse Ratched. It won five Academy Awards, including best picture, best director, and acting awards for Mr. Nicholson and Ms. Fletcher.

Scouting locations, the producers, Saul Zaentz and Michael Douglas, were rebuffed by several West Coast hospitals before winning Dr. Brooks's approval. At Dr. Brooks's request, Mr. Forman and one of the screenwriters, Lawrence Hauben, lived in the hospital for weeks, interacting with patients and observing their daily routines.

6/20/2013 10:22:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

As he came to know the sober, plain-spoken, silver-haired Dr. Brooks, a psychiatrist with no acting experience, Mr. Forman realized he had his Spivey. But when Dr. Brooks read for the part, he found Spivey's lines unbearably stilted. Mr. Forman agreed to let him and Mr. Nicholson ad-lib their scenes together — including a pivotal one in which Spivey conducted McMurphy's intake interview, completed in just two takes.

Dr. Brooks helped shape the film in other ways. Because it graphically depicted several midcentury therapies — including electroshock treatment and lobotomy — that had fallen out of favor by the time it was shot, Dr. Brooks insisted that the film be set in the early 1960s, instead of the 1970s. He also insisted on a disclaimer to the effect that the film was not a true-to-life depiction of a modern psychiatric hospital. Dr. Brooks was criticized by some colleagues for allowing the filmmakers to use the hospital. But the benefits to the hospital's patients, he said, were worth the intrusion. He secured jobs on the film, as extras and assistants to the crew, for 89 of the patients. "One patient was so emboldened by the responsibility that he permanently lost his stutter," *The New York Times* wrote in 2000.

The Oregon State Hospital, while still serving many patients, now also houses a museum, which includes an installation on the making of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." In an interview with *The Statesman Journal* in 2005, Dr. Brooks spoke of his initial reluctance to let the film be shot at the hospital. "It was possible that my whole professional career would go up in flames," he said. "The thing I worried about was that it would be taken as a documentary rather than as the allegory that it is."

Governor Kitzhaber released the following statement on the passing of Dr. Brooks: "Dr. Brooks left a legacy of hope and recovery for the patients of Oregon State Hospital and their families. During his tenure, he worked tirelessly to help people across the state understand the challenges facing those who live with mental illness. He was an agent of change, committed to helping others make their lives better, and he will be greatly missed."