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Autore	Lella Joseph W. <1936- >
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Sommario/riassunto	In 1964 the Senate Committee on Aging reported that ""once admitted to an institution ... the veteran begins ... to show signs of social and physical degeneration,"" a phenomenon that has not escaped the attention of clinicians, social scientists, veterans, and other chronic-care patients. Assuming that social withdrawal in the institutional setting was avoidable and that a strictly medical model of chronic care was inappropriate, Lella and his collaborators established a patient-government project designed to give thirty elderly men in a large veterans' hospital, who suffered fro

