

TO: David J. Vail, M.D.
 Medical Director

FROM: Dr. Russell Barton
 Visiting Consultant Psychiatrist

SUBJECT: Confidential Report on Visit to Willmar State Hospital 8/18/67

Mr. Lucero and Dr. Barton visited Willmar State Hospital on Friday, August 18, 1967, to check the rating scales and present the changes in Ward Living Conditions that have occurred from 1965-1967 to the staff.

The meeting with senior staff enabled useful discussions to be held. I had the impression that staff were still discouraged by the recent resignation of one or two key people. It is probably too early to judge rights and wrongs and assess the actions of personnel in this situation.

Various cottages were visited and the scales found to be reliable.

A meeting of the hospital Humane Practices Committee involved some confusion about the role of the committee -- was the committee executive or advisory?

Discussion of the advisory nature of the committee and the need to arrange suggestions for improvements into priorities, such as:

1. Urgent requirements
2. Necessities
3. Niceties

and the need to keep communications short and to ensure they reach the correct destination was stressed.

The alcoholic program was discussed. It seemed that counsellors would be grateful for more assistance from psychiatric and other professional services. One wondered if they were always as acutely aware of their patients' problems as they claimed to be (having been alcoholic previously). Strengthening of the "cabinet of supportive services" does seem desirable. The possibility of wider use of aversion therapy, hypnotism, antabuse, psychotherapy, and behavior therapy could well be explored.

Willmar State Hospital has improved considerably in the last two years.

Opportunity was taken to congratulate the staff on their achievement.

Appendix I: Details of changes in Ward Living Conditions at Willmar State Hospital, 1965-1967.

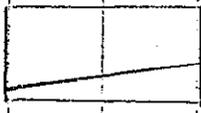
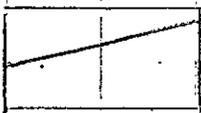
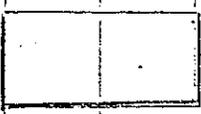
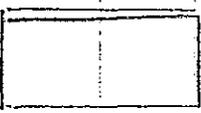
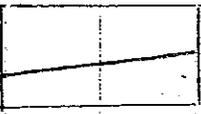
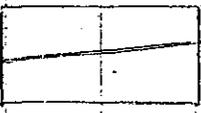
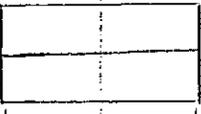
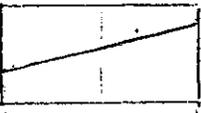
Appendix II: List of suggested improvements made by staff.

67-WSH-RUB

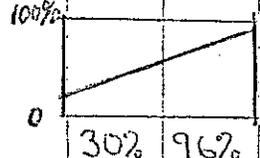
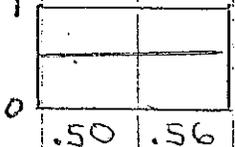
WILLMAR
- 16 -

<p>NUMBER OF DORMS LOCKED ALL DAY. 10A</p>	<p>1965 1967</p> <p>0 0</p>
<p>NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN SECLUSION PAST MONTH. 11F</p>	<p>1.70 1.25</p>
<p>PERCENT OF PATIENTS ALLOWED A NAP. 12</p>	<p>87% 98%</p>
<p>PERCENT OF PATIENTS ALLOWED TO WATCH TV AFTER 10:00PM. 15</p>	<p>20% 47%</p>
<p>NUMBER OF PLANTS ON WARD. 17AB</p>	<p>3. 9.7</p>
<p>WHEN IS BEDTIME? 20</p>	<p>9:30 10:00</p>
<p>PERCENT OF PATIENTS ALLOWED UP AFTER BEDTIME. 21</p>	<p>17% 87%</p>
<p>WHAT TIME ARE PATIENTS UP IN THE MORNING? 22</p>	<p>6:05 6:20</p>
<p>WHAT TIME IS BREAKFAST. 23A</p>	<p>6:39 6:45</p>

W

NUMBER OF PICTURES. 24AB	100  0 11 45
PERCENT OF PATIENTS WITH PLACE FOR POSSESSIONS. 27A	100%  0 55% 94%
PERCENT OF PATIENTS WITH LOCK, 27B	100%  0 0% 2%
NUMBER OF WINDOWS WITHOUT CURTAINS, 28	 0 ↓ 100 10.4 4.3
NUMBER OF SNACK ROOMS 29	1  0 .19 .56
NUMBER OF IRONS, 31	2  0 1 1.4
NUMBER OF WASHERS AND DRYERS. 32	2  0 0 .13
NUMBER OF POP MACHINES, 37	1  0 .50 .63
NUMBER OF WATER COOLERS, 38	1  0 .44 .81

W

PERCENT OF PATIENTS WITH ACCESS TO TOILETRIES, 42	 <p>A line graph with a vertical axis labeled '0' at the bottom and '100%' at the top. A horizontal line is drawn at the 100% mark. A diagonal line starts at a point on the horizontal axis labeled '30%' and rises to a point on the vertical axis labeled '96%'.</p>
NUMBER OF FULL LENGTH MIRRORS, 44	 <p>A bar graph with a vertical axis labeled '0' at the bottom and '1' at the top. Two horizontal bars are shown. The first bar is at the level of '.50' and the second bar is at the level of '.56'.</p>

CHANGES IN WARD LIVING
 CONDITIONS 1965 - 1967

APPENDIX II. LIST OF SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY WARD STAFF
IN ANSWER TO QUESTION #47 IN APRIL, 1967.

QUESTION 47: WHAT THINGS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED ON YOUR WARD?
(Listed in the Order of Frequency)

More comfortable furniture, especially chairs
More bath tubs and showers
Washers and dryers
Larger closets
Better lighting
Coffee room with facilities: toaster, coffee pot, stove
New beds and mattresses
Canteen open at night
Air-conditioning
Stove for patients to prepare snacks
Refrigerator
TV
Bedspreads
More privacy in bathrooms
More privacy in sleeping quarters: two only to a room
Improved tunnels
"Less starch and grease at cafeteria" (quote from a patient)
Swimming pool
Sewing machine
Locked cabinets for personal things
Re-painting all rooms in color
Pictures
Fans
Places for suitcases
Larger office
Larger detention room
Wooden floors removed
Seats on toilets
Serving and cooking facilities improved on unit
Daily newspapers
Current magazines
Recreation facilities
Better heating system
Improved toilet facilities for training of patients
Improved wash rooms
Locked bedside cabinets
Pop machine
Paid janitors and grounds-keepers
Water cooler
More electrical outlets
Recreation for weekends and holidays