

THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

MEMORANDUM

December 26, 1962

T0: Mel Heckt, Don Berglund, Jdn Holahan, Verna Johnston

FROM: Gerald F. Walsh, Executive Director

I visited the Owatonna and Faribault institutions on Thursday, December 20, 1962.

At Owatonna, I sat in on a staff meeting for their Research Building 12. This is the building **where** they have twelve boys and twelve girls who live in the building and attend school in the same building. This is staffed with two teachers, three house parents, and one-day-a-week services **from** the psychologist from the mental health center on a consulting basis. They discussed some **personnel changes** they were making because of vacancies; also, plans to divide the participants in **this** program into **three** groups — one group to be in the school program, one group for recreation, and one group carrying on household details. These groups would then alternate. This program has been going on for approximately five years and they **have** now enrolled an almost new set of participants. Originally, **as** you know, **there** was a control group in the community and the project was partially financed by our Minnesota ARC research fund, (Dr. Capobianco had participated in it.) A program of this kind is certainly worthwhile. I felt that their dormitory space was quite crowded; **they have no individual rooms or rooms for two or three**, but 12 **boys** in one room **on cot-type** beds and 12 girls in another room.

At Faribault, I visited with **Donna Mae** Danielson, Miss Perkins, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Engberg. The faribault people were quite busy preparing a list of 60 male ambulatory patients, and 10 ambulatory females, to be transferred to Cambridge in January. These are people who are new in the Cambridge district. The disturbing thing to the Faribault people **was** that they would be taking **the** ambulatory patients from one group of buildings and then bringing in 70 from the waiting list who would **be** younger, more severely of retarded, and who would have to be placed in different buildings. The buildings **for the** ambulatory would not be suitable **for** the new patients coming in because **of the** degree of retarded involved and their ages.

I was specifically interested in obtaining information as to how many patients from the Cambridge and Brainerd districts are at Faribault at **the** present time. The only information I **was able to** obtain at this time was that approximately 263 patients at Faribault come from the Cambridge district and most **of** these will eventually be transferred there.

The institution is making a list of mentally retarded patients over 65 years of **age**, who can be transferred from Faribault to Ah Gwah Ching, the state home for the aged. If this were done, other patients could then be taken in at Faribault, and the state would **draw** federal aid for the patients at Ah Gwah Ching.

There is some talk about change of receiving districts for the institutions. I will hold off on this and send another memorandum as soon as I have better information.

Attached is a verifax set of two charts, showing the flow of patients within the Faribault institution. For instance, young patients coming in would go to the hospital or nursery and then would go one of three tracks - the school track, later to the "Dairy - Sioux", etc., or the center track, which is the hyper-active, etc., disturbed, or the other track, which is the physically handicapped. I think this is interesting. You will note also that each building is listed with the number of patients served in the building.

I do get the feeling when visiting Faribault that they are very unhappy with the central office and feel that the central office goes off half-cocked very often. For instance, on the transfer of the 70 patients mentioned previously, they were supposed to have this done the first week of January. One social worker mentioned to me that this constituted literally shipping patients because there was not time to do sufficient and proper social work, with each individual ease, preparing the patient, the parents, etc.

**Enc/verifax charts**

**QFW:mlk**

HOSPITAL NURSERY - 77 BEDS (Male & Female)

Approx Ages  
6-12

FINE-108  
Older Nursery

10-16

MOHAWK-60  
School

MAPLE-110  
Hyperactive

OSAGE-80  
Phys. Handicaps

14-20  
(OWATONNA  
S.S.)

CHIPPEWA E.-84  
School

PAWNEE-120  
Hyperactive

ELM-115  
Phys. Handicaps

16+

HICKORY-114  
Mod. Disturbed

DAKOTA-114  
Disturbed

20+

DAIRY  
SIOUX  
HURON  
WEST  
WYOMING  
SPRINGDALE  
LIND  
Working-428

CHIPPEWA W.  
GRANDVIEW  
GLEN  
Geriatric-213

SENECA-100  
Phys. Handicaps

40+

18+

(WORK  
PLACEMENT)

(REST OR  
BOARDING  
HOME)

(NURSING  
HOME)

PATTERN OF FEMALE PATIENT MOVEMENT, JANUARY 1963

