

ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS MINNESOTA
3225 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 1984

MINUTES

PRESENT: Darlene Olson, Chair
Jan Jenkins
Irving Martin
Buff Hennessey
Mickey Prince Peggy Gunther
Bette Rosse
Judy Sweeney
Bill Nelson
Mary Hinze
Molly Woehrlin

STAFF: Sue Abderholden
Emil Angelica
Deb Holtz
Cindy Mueller

Darlene Olson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. She announced that she has resigned from the position of Governmental Affairs Chair. She thanked committee members for their strong support of governmental affairs efforts and stated that she felt extremely confident with the appointment of Bette Rosse to that position beginning January 1.

Darlene also announced that Bette Rosse had accepted an appointment to the Governmental Affairs Committee of ARC-U.S.

Sue reported that a committee has been appointed and a meeting date has been set to begin work on development of a parent fee schedule for children in out-of-home placement. This is a follow-up to legislation passed last session.

Brief discussion took place on the information mailed out to committee members on the Family Subsidy program.

The committee reviewed the draft statement developed by the Task Force on Deinstitutionalization called "Statement On Delivery Of Services". The paper deals with the role of government in the provision of residential services to people with mental retardation and is a response to proposals that the state should be involved in direct provision of both residential and day services for people moving from institutions to community placement. (See copy attached).

MOTION: Jan Jenkins - Moved adoption of the "Statement on Delivery Of Services".
SECOND: Molly Woehrlin
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The statement will be presented to the Board of Directors at their meeting on December 8. (Note: The "Statement On Delivery Of Services" was adopted by the Board of Directors.)

Sue reported on issues relating to Minnesota Supplemental Assistance. It was decided a task force should meet. Judy Sweeney, Peggy Gunther and

Jan Jenkins expressed willingness to serve on the task force. Additionally, people agreed to meet and work with Molly Woehrlin on the issue relating to General Assistance.

Sue reviewed the proposed changes to Rule 53.

The committee briefly reviewed information relating to pertussis vaccine recipients and decided to take no action but to be watchful.

Sue updated the committee on the lack of action relating to the charges brought against Special Forces Ministries, which operates several residential facilities for people with mental retardation.

Emil reported on the work of the Bed Reduction Task Force and the development of a plan as to how that will take place.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Olson, Chair

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STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Association for Retarded Citizens Minnesota strongly believes that all people with mental retardation, regardless of the severity of their disability, are entitled to be integrated into the community. For many people with mental retardation in this state, community living is a reality. A small minority of people remain, however, in institutions because the necessary community resources have not yet been developed.

The ARC is committed to promote the development of community resources, ensuring that all people will be able to live in the community. As the State of Minnesota works with us towards this goal, we urge consideration of this statement on the delivery of services to people with mental retardation.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

A primary responsibility of government is to promote the welfare of its citizens. Government does this by providing leadership in the development of a service system - leadership that creates policies which enable and encourage the development of appropriate community services.

In addition, the role of government is to assess and respond to needs, evaluate the service-system, plan for and ensure the development of services, provide adequate funds, establish standards for services, and to monitor services. As the government carries out its responsibilities it must ensure meaningful community participation.

In contrast, the role of the private sector is to provide services according to the needs identified by government and in compliance with the standards established by government.

Thus, the government should be involved in the development of a system in which services are provided rather than in the actual provision of services.

PROVISION OF SERVICES

Services should be provided by non-governmental agencies. This separates the roles of providing services and monitoring or regulating services.

The reasons for separating the roles relate to enhancing the quality of services provided. In order to secure quality care, the government must assess programs and enforce standards. If government is providing services, the potential for conflict exists between the part of government that is providing services and the part that is enforcing standards.

Where the state is the legal guardian for a person, the additional responsibility of seeing that his/her needs are being met belongs to the state. If the state is also providing services to this person, then there are three potential areas of conflict: (1) the part of government that ensures that needs are being met; (2) the part that provides the services; and (3) the part that enforces standards.

CONCLUSION

The Association for Retarded Citizens Minnesota believes that government should limit its activities to system development and should promote and foster the delivery of services by the private sector.

Adopted by the Board of Directors - December 8, 1984