

# New Service Planned For 'Older' Retarded

A new service of potential importance to all Minnesota families which have older mentally retarded children at home may soon be available, the Department of Public Welfare announced Friday.

It announced a \$10,000 grant to the Minneapolis Association for Retarded children to plan and initiate a social adjustment service for older children and adults. This will be a pilot program to be conducted initially in Minneapolis, but it will have statewide implications.

The grant was made from funds provided by the National Institute of Mental Health, a branch of the U. S. Public Health service.

According to Dr. Dale C. Cameron, medical director of the Department of Public Welfare, the pilot plan will attempt to find out which services prove most effective for the older retarded person and how these can be provided in other communities. Provision will be made for psychiatric evaluation of the project, he added.

Part of the funds will be used to develop a plan which must be approved before Jan. 1, 1959, by state and federal health authori-

ties. Thereafter, services outlined in the plan can go into operation.

As presently foreseen, the project probably will take form of one or more centers where families may take older: retarded children for part of the day. At the center he will have an opportunity to improve his social skills and adjustment. His family in turn, would be relieved for a time of the responsibility of supervision

"If successful, centers of this kind should increase the length of time retarded persons, even those with a rather severe handicap, can remain with their families Dr. Cameron said.

July 20, 1957  
St Paul Pioneer Press

## NO FACILITIES AFTER AGE 16-

# Plight Of Retarded Youth Cited

A very serious problem for the family is the training and placement of the retarded child who Teaches the age of 16, an Illinois expert said today.

Jane Bull, executive director] of the Illinois commission for handicapped children, spoke at the Institute on Home Training for the Mentally Retarded in the Center for Continuation studies at the University of Minnesota.

Parents are afforded facilities in centers for training of

the young child, but most centers have no facilities for persons over 16, she said.

Communities- can help the

child by providing eventual sheltered or competitive employment and affording recreational facilities in a broad sense with other children.

Miss Bull said public schools have a responsibility toward the child whether or not he is in private schools. The schools must be prepared to accept them if time and condition warrants it, she added.

Tuesday's session will include Dr. Jack Wallinga of Minneapolis who will speak on problems

of the pre-adolescent child and psychiatry of children and adolescents.

September 9, 1957  
St Paul Dispatch

# *Rehabilitation Needs Of Handicapped Told*

About 250,000 persons a year are being added to the rolls of the severely handicapped in this country and are in need of rehabilitation, E. B. Whitten of Washington, D. C., said here today.

Mr. Whitten is executive director of the National Rehabilitation association and is attending preliminary sessions of the organization's national conference which opens Wednesday in the Nicollet hotel, Minneapolis.

The conference is sponsored by the Minnesota Rehabilitation association. This is the first time in the history of the organization that the national conference has been sponsored\* by a state group.

"The purpose of our national conference, in part, is to focus public attention on the number of humans in need of rehabilitation," Mr. Whitten said.

"There are about 2 million severely handicapped people in the country today. Through the public's and our efforts we hope to keep them from being relegated to the scrap heap." He said that the association estimates that about 50,000 persons are rehabilitated a year now but the chronic disease and accidents are boosting the number in need of help. "While the number of handicapped persons in need of re-habilitation increases," Mr. Whitten said, "the programs to,

give them help and the interest in these programs is increasing also.

"This meeting will be the best attended one we have ever had. About 1,000 persons, most of them professionally trained in rehabilitation, will attend the three-day meeting. Membership in the association has tripled in the past 10 years and so has the number of persons appearing at the annual conferences."

September 30, 1957  
St Paul Dispatch

# Test Workshop Started Here

A test workshop for the physically and mentally, handicapped has been started by the Greater, St. Paul Community Chest and the Jewish Vocational Service industrial workshop.

Harold J. Cummings, Chest president, who made the announcement today, said the *trial* program has been developed to determine whether a St. Paul community work-Shop, for the handicapped can be successfully organized and operated.

He said the pilot shop is an expansion of the Jewish Vocational service workshop. The new project will have a city of 25 to 30 handicapped clients. It will be operated on a *trial* basis until June 30, 1958.

Earlier that year a committee headed by Frank L. De-laney will study the workshop operation and advise the Chest board of directors whether a community shop can be conducted with Chest funds.

*If* the board approves a workshop, the Jewish Vocational service will turn over its equipment and business contracts to the new program without charge.

The need for a workshop to rehabilitate the handicapped in St. Paul was realized after, a pilot survey showed community resources were inadequate to meet the needs for, retraining, the disabled to become employable, Chest officials said, - Total budget for the test project, \$21,000, is shared equally by the Community Chest and Jewish Vocational service demonstration-project is in the Brokerage building", 292 E. Fifth.

August 16, 1957  
St Paul Dispatch

## Retarded Drivers?

SOME eyebrows may have been raised this week at news that the state school for the mentally retarded at Owatonna is offering driver training. Forty-two boys and 27 girls are taking the course.

The Owatonna school has an enrollment of 360 young people, ranging in age from 8 to 21, with IQs ranging from 50 to 80. All are capable of doing class work, otherwise they would be at the Faribault or Cambridge institutions. When they leave Owatonna, usually at age 18 to 21, most of them have finished the sixth grade, although some can't get beyond third grade.

The theory of the state departments of education and welfare, both of which have a part in the driver program, is that the boys and girls should have the best preparation possible, since many of them own or drive cars after leaving the school. Those in charge point out that the course stresses attitudes and citizenship as well as mechanical competence in driving.

That brings up the question of what constitutes a competent driver. Some highly intelligent persons aren't good drivers; a few can't drive at all. Minnesota's driver license tests are considered among the toughest in the nation. About 25 per cent of applicants fail in the first written test, 45 per cent fail the first road test. Most of these pass eventually—Minnesota has 1,600,000 licensed drivers — though some never get by. Some graduates of the Owatonna school have obtained licenses.

It might be called to attention that about 3 percent of the population is mentally retarded by recognized tests, but that these, persons are as truly individuals as the more gifted.

Whether the new driver course will increase the number of licenses among the retarded or merely make better drivers of those who would be licensed anyway is hard to answer. Officials at the school say that some students are screened out of the course. And all of them supposedly are under the supervision of their County welfare boards when they leave Owatonna.

It is to be hoped that the supervision extends to driver licensing.

October 11, 1957  
Minneapolis Tribune