

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF CONTROL LIBRARY**

A Plan for Minnesota for the Care, Control, and Training  
of Her Mental Defectives.

A. Institutions.

1. A new institution for the higher grade defectives only, named the "Minnesota Home and Industrial Training School",

This institution should admit (a) moron grade children without homes or with homes that are inadequate for their proper rearing; (b) it should admit moron adults not capable of extra-institutional care and control, but not habitually delinquent.

This institution should aim to train and employ all cases with the view of ultimately paroling them under a plan of extra-institutional care and control. It should furnish proper employment within the institution for all adult cases until paroled, and should remunerate them in proportion to merits.

The equipment should be: (a) Dormitories on the small cottage plan; (b) Shops for industrial training and for employment; (c) fifty to one hundred acres of land, chiefly for building purposes, and recreational grounds; (d) a well equipped training school; (e) organizations for marketing products from its shops not used by other state institutions; (f) a progressive superintendent thoroughly familiar with the sociologic and educational problems of the high grade mental defective.

2. "Minnesota Institution for Defective Delinquents". This should be organized and equipped along lines similar to that of the Minnesota Home and Industrial Training School, but would not have occasion to admit children below ten perhaps. Defective delinquents are practically all of moron grade, with relatively few of high imbecile grade. If a tendency to delinquency is already established, reform is probably impossible. One institution could admit both sexes, with proper segregation. Probably over three hundred cases now in Minnesota Reformatories should be in this institution for defective delinquents.

3. "Minnesota Hospital and Training School for Epileptics." The general aim of this institution should be to bring about much needed specialization for epileptics, so as to reach particularly incipient cases and others without marked mental deterioration or mental deficiency.

The equipment should include (a) special hospital; (b) dormitories in the cottage plan; (c) a training and re-education department to furnish general school training, special occupational training in occupations suited to epilepsy, and re-education of cases with established bad mental habits and character traits common in epilepsy; (d) lands suitable for "truck" farming;

(e) an organization of field agents to reach incipient cases and others not likely to seek aid from the institution in proper time and their own initiative; and to act as an employment agency for cases dismissed from the institution.

It should admit only cases without marked mental deterioration or deficiency. Its director should be a specialist in epilepsy.

4. Reorganization of present School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics.

(a) Change of name to "Minnesota Home for Feeble-Minded".

(b) Removal of all moron grade feeble-minded to the new "Minnesota Home and Industrial Training School."

(c) Removal of all epileptics not disqualified through marked mental deterioration or mental deficiency for the new "State Hospital and Training School for Epileptics" to this latter institution.

(d) Retention and admission of only such cases of feeble-mindedness as require permanent institutional care. This should include epileptic of idiot and imbecile grade of intelligence.

B. Extra-institutional care and control through Children's Bureau.

1. Classes of cases. (a) Cases paroled from new Home and Industrial Training School. (b) Other cases committed to guardianship of Board of Control and not requiring commitment to an institution.

2. Aims. (a) To find proper homes, if not left with parents, and instruct same in management of cases. (b) To find employment for cases and keep them employed. (c) To cooperate with employers.

3. Requirements. Field Agents (a) to investigate homes, (b) to act as employment agencies, (c) to periodically visit homes, the cases, and employers.

C. Compulsory Special Classes for Mental Defectives in Public and Private Schools.

1. Organization of these classes should be compulsory on order from some State Department. (State Department of Education or Board of Control). The present optional plan has too many defects and abuses.

2. Classes of cases (a) Morons, ages five to twenty, with adequate homes, and capable of industrial training. (b) Borderline cases, ages five to twelve, who are unusually poor in regular school work.

3. Requirements. (a) State aid as at present. (b) Specially trained teachers, as at present. (c) Proper equipment for industrial and occupational training. (d) Field agents from Children's Bureau to visit homes to instruct parents and cooperate with them in training and managing cases.

D. Research Bureau.

1. Function. (a) Mental examination of all cases in charge of Board of Control, when such examination is called for. (b) Investigation of any problem related to the training, care and control of mental defectives, as directed by the Board of Control. (c) Study of methods of investigation used by Bureau with view of improvement. (d) Publication and dissemination of results.

2. Requirements. (a) Offices and quarters adapted to the nature of the work. (b) Mental examiners in sufficient numbers, to make all examinations at a maximum rate of 600 cases per year per examiner. (c) Field workers to investigate social, home, and family conditions. (d) Clerical help.

E. Methods of Commitment, Parole and Transfer.

1. Commitment. (a) To Board of Control. Present method of court commitment should be modified (1) so that probate judge would not have power to deny a hearing to determine feeble-mindedness when in his judgment the case is obviously not feeble-minded; (2) so that the examining board would always be made up of the probate judge, an examiner from the Research Bureau, and one other person residing in the county with the case to be given a hearing. This third person should be one permanently appointed or designated by law to serve on this examining board for the hearing of all cases. This would tend to improve the choice of this third person, and also give him occasion to qualify himself further for this duty, and give him definite responsibility in the matter.

(b) Commitment to institutions after commitment to Board of Control. Further investigations by Research Bureau and report to Children's Bureau, when called for. Disposition of cases determined jointly by Children's Bureau and institution concerned.

(c) Delinquents should be committed to care of Board of Control as mental defectives are now. Board of Control should decide on institution to which case is to be committed.

2. Parole and Transfer. (a) Re-examination and investigation by Research Bureau. (b) Parole or transfer determined jointly by Children's Bureau and institutions concerned.

F. Additional New Laws.

1. Law making establishment and maintenance of special class for mentally defective children in public, parochial and private schools compulsory on order of some State department, preferably Board of Control.

2. Law modifying procedure in court commitment as indicated above.

3. Law permitting Board of Control to make necessary investigation in any schools to determine presence of mentally defective children, and to have same committed to their charge, by court.

4. Law making it obligatory on all marriage license clerks to refuse marriage license to mental defectives whose names and means of identification have been furnished by Board of Control.

G. University Training Courses.

1. Special Summer School courses for the following:

- (a) Teachers of mental defectives
- (b) Social Workers

2. Extended Courses for the following:

- (a) Supervisors of special classes for mental defectives
- (b) Mental Examiners
- (c) Clinical psychologists

3. Requirements.

- (a) Special instructors
- (b) Groups or classes of mental defectives for observation
- (c) Children of all ages and school grades for training of mental examiners and clinical psychologists

There should be a definite and permanent arrangement between the University and the public schools of Minneapolis and St. Paul whereby University students in these courses could observe, teach, and examine children. Or, in place of this, the University should extend its plan now in force in the maintenance of a University High School, so as to include all school grades, with a department for mental defectives.