



FINAL TASK FORCE REPORT
FARIBAULT STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL
May 5, 1960

The Faribault State School and Hospital Task Force met five times. At their meetings various individuals, representatives and groups were present and indicated various problems and needs of the institution. In reviewing these problems and needs the task force makes the following comments and recommendations:

Loss of Accreditation. The loss of accreditation of this hospital is a serious matter. While the care available to the patient appears to be good, the loss of accreditation indicates the care available is not as good as the level established by the standards for accreditation. Furthermore, an approved medical residency program cannot be carried on without accreditation. The basic reasons for the loss of accreditation were overcrowding, old buildings and understaffing. These deficiencies cannot be overcome immediately but steps should be taken so accreditation can be regained at the earliest possible date.

Planning for the Future. A long-range study of the future of this institution is necessary for good coordination, administration and planning. This study should encompass such items as the desirable size of the institution, changing requirements because of the change in the type of patients, overall study of the physical facilities and a special study of the food service needs. The task force recommends that the legislature appropriate money so this study can be made.

Personnel. Recent admissions to the institution reveal the patients admitted are more severely retarded, many with additional multiple physical handicaps. This change in type of patient will require additional personnel as the patients need more care than the better

type patients they are replacing.

Work formerly performed by the better type patient will now have to be performed by employed personnel. The situation has already become so critical that unless a substantial increase in employed personnel is granted the health and safety of the patients is in jeopardy. Several serious accidents have already occurred because of this situation.

Information given the task force in one of the early meetings indicated the nursing personnel would have additional time for patient care if they were given clerical assistance so as to relieve them of some of the minor clerical work they are now performing. Steps are now being taken by the institution to grant some relief for this problem.

The starting salary level for teachers appeared to be comparable with the public school system, but the salary level does not attract teachers with the needed special certificate. It is also true the public school system has a greater number of salary increments which would be a factor in recruitment. This situation should be reviewed and an attempt made to make the state salary range for special teachers more comparable to those in the public school system.

All salaries should be reviewed frequently to determine that the level is competitive with those performing similar duties in public and private employment, and where indicated, the levels adjusted as promptly as possible.

In certain professional categories it is almost impossible to recruit staff because of the shortage of people qualified and willing to accept employment in a state institution. By adequately increasing these salary levels and providing opportunity for professional enrichment it should be possible to recruit more people.

Research. The importance of research was stressed to the task force. The present research project at this institution indicates a method of preventing or reducing mental retardation in certain cases. Research of this type should be encouraged and as additional state funds become available other areas should be chosen for research.

Overcrowding. In its tour of the institution, the task force was greatly concerned with the overcrowding of patients in the old buildings. Some of these buildings are in such condition that they represent an extreme hazard to the patients and should be replaced at once. As a start, the task force hopes that the Legislative Building Commission will recommend to the next session of the legislature the construction of buildings to house 250 beds for male patients now housed in obsolete, hazardous and overcrowded buildings.

Public Information. The task force believes that the public should be thoroughly informed of the various aspects of mental retardation and the work of this institution. Some of this work can be done by interested groups but much must be done by the institution because of their daily contact with the mentally retarded. The volume of visits was noted and mention was made of the requests for information submitted to the institution. It is suggested that one person be assigned full time the duties and responsibilities for public education and information.

Self-Survey. The task force was pleased to discover the administration of this institution had inaugurated their own self-survey. Such a review of internal procedures can be beneficial and improve internal procedures and operations. The institution is to be complemented on this program.

Mechanization and Equipment. It is quite apparent with the continued change in the patient population it will be increasingly necessary to further mechanize the operations at the institution. Additional equipment will also be needed to assist and care for these patients.