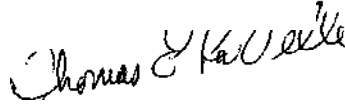


April 27, 1960

Administration - Budget

Members of the Faribault State School
and Hospital Task Force

Thomas E. LaVelle
Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. LaVelle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Thomas E. LaVelle".

Next Meeting of the Task Force

As requested at our previous meeting, I have prepared a tentative draft of our report. The points commented on in the draft are not to suggest what should be in our report but are to be used merely as a starting point. In the tentative draft I have tried to include all of the matters that came before the task force.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 5, 1960, at 10:00 A.M.

Tentative Task Force Report
Faribault State School and hospital

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 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 maximum 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. From the studies made by the institution it appears that the patients to be admitted will be the more severely retarded. This change will require additional personnel as the patients will require more care than the better type patients they are replacing.

In addition, work formerly performed by the better type patient will now have to be performed by employee as the better type patient leaves the institution, For these reasons additional personnel will be needed to maintain too present level of care and service. In order to regain accreditation it will be necessary to provide additional staff in the area of professional care.

Information given the task force indicated the nursing personnel would require 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. 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 increasing these salary levels it may be possible to recruit more people,

Too starting salary level for teachers appeared to so comparable with too public school system. However 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 teachers more comparable to the public school system. All salaries should be reviewed to determine the level is comparable with the salary levels in public and private employment. Where indicated, the levels should be adjusted as promptly as possible.

Research. The importance of research was stressed to the task force, The present research project 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 a portion of the institution, the task force noted the overcrowding of patients in some of too older buildings. The task force hopes that the Legislative Building Commission will recommend too construction of a sufficient number of buildings to eliminate this overcrowding.

Public Information. The task force believes that too 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 everyday work with the mentally retarded. However, the task force recommends that the Director of Psychological Services should be relieved of his responsibilities as an information officer as soon as possible. This will enable him to devote full time to the psychological services at this institution.

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 and operations can be beneficial and improve internal procedures and operations, the institution is to be complemented on this program.