

Fairbault State School & Hospital

David J. Vail, M.D.
Medical Director

4-14-54

H. J. Engberg, M.D., Superintendent

Problem of Dehumanization

Your memorandum of March 20 requested information in regard to two matters, namely:

1. Administrative - In a few areas each patient is given a box of Kleenex and asks for another when needed. These same people have their own tubes of tooth paste, toilet soap, shaving supplies, and other personal items which are kept in bed-side cabinets or dressers. In these same areas toilet tissue and paper towels are placed in the bathroom.

In some instances Kleenex and toilet tissue is left where the individual may get it when needed without asking. Other areas keep these items where the patients must come and ask for them.

In a few areas it is necessary to keep all of these items under strict control. This is the area where little or no judgment is shown by the individual.

Total care areas usage is governed entirely by employees.

2. Restraints and Seclusion - Our monthly reports on these procedures indicate to us a general and gradual decrease in their use as staff learns more positive means of meeting patients' needs. We do not believe the minimum has been reached and sudden increases in some categories occur which must be documented with valid reasons.

These measures can only be applied by a physician's order except in an emergency which must be confirmed as soon as possible by him. Ward reports are carefully tabulated and reviewed by the Director of Nurses each week and the monthly report is discussed and compared with previous reports at our Hospital Staff meeting each month.

/er

cc: Dr. Thorsten Smith
Mrs. Blomquist
Mrs. Rappe