

BUILDING COMMISSION - FERGUS FALLS

(October 20, 1965)

Attended by Gerald F. Walsh and Sheldon Schneider of the Minnesota Assn. for Retarded Children

Senator Popp was absent.

Dr. Patterson, Medical Director made a brief statement outlining history of institutions.

Robert Hoffman, Administrator made presentation.

Hospital composed of four basic units:

1. Admissions Unit

- A) receiving ward
- B) intensive treatment ward
- C) adolescent ward

2. Acute Treatment Unit

- A) serves the long-term regressed patient which require more nursing attention.

3. Convalescent Unit

- A) minimum supervision by nursing personnel
- B) designed to provide maximum independent living experience

4. Geriatric Unit

- A) serving the aged

These four units function in coordination with administration and maintenance to create a therapeutic community.

This institution is not asking for any new buildings. However, through an extensive remodeling program a desirable treatment environment is being developed in this 75 year-old building.

When remodeling this institution, emphasis was placed upon providing the patients with some privacy.

- 1. private shower stalls
- 2. seats on toilets and partitions between toilets

The commission did not ask any questions concerning program. Their primary interest seemed to center about the farm.

The farm uses patient labor and is regarded as a form of work therapy and training.

Apparently this farm project is successful and will be continued.

Reference was made to the changing population in this institution.

- 1. The average daily resident population has decreased from 1928 in 1954 to 1303 in 1964.
- 2. Average daily population is decreasing but admissions are increasing. The period of residency is declining.

When touring the facility, there was a discussion concerning bed space requirements. In this institution, 80 square feet are required. In institutions for the mentally retarded, 60 square feet are required.

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