

STAFF  
65-6 MC-EdE  
State Inst - Faribault  
Faribault State School & Hospital

David J. Vail, M.D., Medical Director  
Department of Public Welfare

8-19-65

E. J. Engberg, M.D., Superintendent

#### Weekend Medical Coverage

Replying to your memorandum of July 26th, our weekend medical coverage is by the part time or full time physician or physicians assigned. He makes regular rounds in the institution's hospital in the mornings and afternoon on Saturday and Sunday. He then visits dormitories who have reported to the hospital any patients ill or with minor injuries not needing immediate medical attention. Thereafter he is available to respond promptly to calls from the hospital or various dormitories to see patients who have become ill or been injured.

There is a social service worker on duty during the regular office hours every day including holidays and one is designated as on call at all other times. If relatives desire special medical information in regard to a patient they are visiting at times other than the regular working hours, a social service worker arranges for the physician on call to see the family. If he is not the one regularly in attendance upon the patient, arrangements are made for the family to see him if available or by a future appointment. If the relatives then appear dissatisfied social services arranges for me, or in my absence Dr. Thorsten Smith, to meet the family and give them all the information desired and available.

The present plan of weekend coverage dates back to 12-12-58 when Robert Speckhals, M.D., in general practice in Faribault was employed on a basis of up to half time each payroll period. He carried the responsibility of providing the weekend coverage from 4:30 p.m. Friday to 8:00 a.m. the following Monday. In addition, until major surgery was transferred to Rochester and obstetrical cases to the local hospital in charge of their staff physician selected by us, he was available to assist in surgery and to take care of obstetrical cases to relieve our regular physicians of those responsibilities and make it possible for them to be available full time for their other duties. If Dr. Speckhals for any reason could not take care of the weekend coverage our full-time staff physicians would be assigned to provide the necessary coverage for the entire or specified portions of the weekend.

Dr. Speckhals wished to be relieved of the weekend coverage so on 5-3-60 Asa B. Graham, M.D., also in general practice in Faribault was employed, and ordinarily Dr. Speckhals and Dr. Graham would alternate in providing the weekend coverage until 5-22-61 when Dr. Graham resigned because he had become Rice County Coroner and could not continue to be on our payroll.

Paul Weaver, M.D., started on 2-9-63 to help provide the weekend coverage and alternated with Dr. Speckhals until 6-30-63 when Dr. Speckhals resigned because he was starting post graduate work at Miller Hospital, St. Paul, completing his residence requirements in internal medicine and planned to return to Faribault.

David J. Vail, M.D.

-2-

8-20-65

Dean T. Clarke, M.D. who had taken over Dr. Speckhals practice was employed up to half time from 8-1-63 until 1-1-64 when he found that he could not continue to give us the time necessary.

Dr. Speckhals resumed his practice in Faribault upon completing his residence program and indicated a willingness to alternate with Dr. Weaver in providing weekend coverage so was employed up to half time on 3-14-64, but resigned on 6-13-65 because his own practice had become too heavy to continue to serve us.

We are hoping that another local physician can be interested in part time service so that our full time physicians need not be on duty on any weekends except for unexpected emergencies.

/er

COPY