



69-EGU-VNB
State Inst - Faribault

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DEPARTMENT Faribault State Hospital

TO : Eric Erickson

DATE: May 1, 1969

FROM : Val Blomquist

SUBJECT: East Grove Unit

*Copy to
Dr. Johnson
Mrs. Anderson
I'd like to
know if
class will
be held
the way*

Willow North personnel are actively engaged in training programs. They are working with a few residents intensively in toilet training, feeding, and dressing programs. The others in larger groups are being scheduled in painting, coloring number concepts, writing, reading, etc. As the residents in the intensified programs acquire self-help skills others are added to the smaller intensified training program. They seem to be doing very well in their training programs. All residents are receiving some training and activation.

Willow South has mostly physically handicapped residents which are very difficult to program in as many activities. The residents who could use their hands and sit up, were being worked with on folding clothes when I was in the building. The personnel work on handiwork, coloring, toilet training, and moving themselves in and out of their wheelchairs. They have evaluation sheets which show the progress of each resident.

Poppy building on the north ward is working with a few residents at a time coloring, looking at picture books and trying to do simple puzzles. They hope to increase the attention span of the residents, so they can be trained in more self-help skills. They have been concentrating on better behavior in the dining room and state there is improvement in the behavior during meals. Small groups are taken from the south ward to the large "home living" training room in the basement; how to do cleaning and dusting, manners, grooming, etc. are stressed here. The need appears to be for smaller areas close by, where the residents could be separated into small homogeneous groups, so they could be trained without interference from the other groups. The personnel are setting up some activity rooms in the basement (in the old seclusion rooms). This is a good idea, but more staffing would be required to use these activity centers to the fullest measure.

The South ward is training residents on the ward in proper behavior. When visitors come on the ward. They have toilet training programs on both wards, South ward has a program in self-bathing and proper dress.

Daisy building has moved the day room to first floor and used the cement blocks and boards as dividers. There were residents sitting in both areas, the ones in the small area were listening to the radio and trying to write. In the larger area some were grouped by the television watching a program and others were towards the end of this area looking at books.

The two programs they are concentrating on are self-bathing and better eating habits.

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Fern East residents were busy sewing, reading, looking at magazines and folding clothes. There were about six watching television and not doing anything else. This area needs some small sitting room areas and as more beds are removed this would be possible.

Fern West has really done a tremendous job in fixing up their area. They have been able to fix little sitting rooms in two of the dormitories, and it was thrilling to see them both occupied by the residents entertaining or rather occupying their time with activities of their choice. Fern West has such a homelike atmosphere it is nearly impossible to comprehend it as it was when there were 150 residents here, and chairs were the only furniture in the dayrooms, and beds six inches apart in the dormitories. It is amazing how many of the residents find activities to occupy themselves with when there is freedom of movement and a homelike atmosphere. The personnel have certainly expended much time and energy in scrounging for all the furniture, the materials for recovering furniture, the table cloths, pillows, curtains, etc. They should be highly commended for their efforts. The programs in these wards are more sophisticated and with the exception of a few in washing, bathing and hair care programs the others are being taught reading, writing, numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, money values, telling time, recognizing signs, shopping, etc.

VB:lb