

69-mws-AMW
State Inst - Faribault
Public Welfare

COPY OF
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

SECTION FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

November 3, 1969

Mr. Ove Wangersten
Assistant Commissioner

*W.D. Johnson
then Debra Nelson
- then back to me for
file.
Hed*

Ardo M. Wrobel, Director
Mental Retardation Programs, Medical Services Division

Letter from Mrs. Reynold Miller Concerning Faribault State Hospital

This is in response to your request for information concerning movement of male and female residents into the same residential buildings at Faribault State Hospital.

The Faribault State Hospital is in the process of reorganizing certain residential units in order to improve the resident programs and to increase efficiency of the hospital in carrying out personalized services to its residents.

In doing so, the Faribault staff are planning to keep male and female residents in separately supervised wings of two large patient buildings. Contrary to what may be envisioned by Mrs. Miller and perhaps others, separate sleeping, bathing, and toilet facilities are definitely being provided. Each wing of a building is a complete residential unit, separately supervised, which will not in any way reduce the moral standards of the community.

By the same token, if Faribault State Hospital had one large building for all residents, then the male and female residents would normally be housed in separate wings or wards of the building. This is not uncommon throughout the country.

Because Faribault State Hospital has several rather large residential buildings which provide for separate living arrangements, and because of the changing abilities of residents at Faribault State Hospital, some of its units are being re-arranged, and direct service personnel assigned to separate program units. Eight such units are being planned, each with a program director responsible to the medical director and administrator for the specific program for each resident in that unit.

Emerging from custodial care to planned training programs require that normal experiences be built into the programs, and one of these is socialization between men and women. This is particularly important for those residents who are being prepared for discharge and living in their home, neighborhood and community. The fact of life is that living in the community does put men and women together in a variety of social situations.

Mr. Ove Wangensteen

-2-

November 3, 1969

For these reasons our responsibility is to provide as complete a training program as is possible in order to increase the resident's ability to function on a job in the community and in his home.

The physical arrangements of some of the residential buildings, those for example having separate wings as in a "Y" shaped building, affords us an opportunity to have male patients in one wing and female patients in another, so that they can share a common day room, dining room and recreation and television areas under supervision. Such arrangements allow the staff to train residents in proper behavior, manners, dress, conversation, and eating habits in a somewhat normal situation.

I hope that this adequately explains the program at Faribault State Hospital; and should there be any more questions, I'd be very happy to respond to them.

Thank you!


als

cc: David J. Vail, M. D.
✓ Mr. Harold Gillespie, Faribault State Hospital