

WARD LIVING CONDITIONS SURVEY

November 3, 1969

At 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3, Dr. Johnson and Mr. Gillespie convened with the representatives of the Ward Living Conditions Survey, Miriam Karlins, Russell Roberts and Jeanne Sulem. The plan for this particular meeting was to discuss some of the details with the Medical Director and Administrator prior to the general afternoon discussion with the Department Heads and Unit Directors.

Mrs. Karlins began by explaining the background and historical development of the Ward Living Conditions Survey. She and Miss Sulem then described the mechanics and the statistics of the survey. Next there was a discussion of the limitations of the Ward living conditions survey. There are many other factors besides Ward Living conditions such as programs, attitude, improvement among patients, etc. Hopefully, scales will be developed to measure these other positive aspects in the near future.

An overview of the recent rating was then presented. Miss Sulem pointed to the fact that the Faribault State Hospital had risen from an institution-wide average of 2.85 in 1965 to 3.82 in 1969. The wards are rated 1 to 5 with "5" being the best score possible. However, at the "5" level, further improvements are recognized by adding up to four "pluses"*. This year our ratings were as follows:

No. of Wards	Rating
1	1
9	2
9	3
9	4
21	5 (Of these, 16 had at least one "plus".)

26 wards showed improvement over last year; 22 wards remained the same; one ward dropped in its rating.

Mrs. Karlins stated that perhaps the biggest disappointment within these results was that most of the "2's" and "3's" have remained the same. In other words, the wards that already were highly rated were the ones that improved even further with respect to ward living conditions. She went on to say that the best items involved later meal-time hours and more flexibility for each patient concerning bedtime and rising hours. (This is an improvement because the patients have been going to bed too early and getting up too early in the past.)

Mrs. Karlins then shared with Mr. Gillespie and Dr. Johnson the points that were brought out in her morning meeting with the Charge Technicians. First off, she stressed the desirable quality of high motivation amongst the staff. She stated that the technicians exhibited a free feeling and an ability to communicate. This was done within a general aura of enthusiasm and desire to improve the institution. She felt the ability of the ward staff to express their frustrations indicated a concern over conditions and a desire to improve them. Generally, the specific items covered involved maintenance and building repair.

Shortly after 2:00 p.m. we adjourned to the conference room in Wiley Hall in order to convey the above information to Department Heads, Unit Directors, and Physicians. Since the material covered in that session was essentially the same as that described above, there is no need to repeat it in these minutes*. The general meeting was over around 3:00 p.m.

RAD:pk