Residents receive public schooling. Residents are assigned to buildings and are responsible for the maintenance of their personal spaces. They are encouraged to assume responsibility for their own care, money management, leisure and recreation. Social workers help the residents maintain contact with family members. The hospital has a counseling center, which is a division of the Minnesota Department of Health. The center is staffed by trained counselors who provide therapy for patients and families, and facilitate admission and discharge planning.

The Chaplains’ Department aids residents to freely exercise their own religion, provides worship services, religious instruction, consultation, and personal counseling.

The Residents’ Advocates program provides residents with a means through which residents’ rights are upheld, and assists clients, staff and families to understand and interpret laws, rules and regulations regarding commitment, treatment and rights.

There is a wide variety of associated departments that provide for staff development, maintenance and care of the campus grounds and services, and educational staff counseling. These are the functions of the Faribault State Hospital.

The Faribault community plays an important role, for residents take part in community activities and utilize community resources. They are encouraged to participate on the FSH Volunteer Council, Advisory Board, as contributors, in a wide variety of volunteer programs as both direct and indirect volunteers.

The Administration Building (1958) is the first building on the right as you enter the campus. Here are administrative offices, word processing, business and computer center, personnel offices, facility and services, volunteer registration, switchboard reception and general community services.

Social workers help the residents maintain contact with family members, and the hospital has a counseling center, which is a division of the Minnesota Department of Health. The center is staffed by trained counselors who provide therapy for patients and families, and facilitate admission and discharge planning.

The Chaplains’ Department aids residents to freely exercise their own religion, provides worship services, religious instruction, consultation, and personal counseling.

The Residents’ Advocates program provides residents with a means through which residents’ rights are upheld, and assists clients, staff and families to understand and interpret laws, rules and regulations regarding commitment, treatment and rights.

There is a wide variety of associated departments that provide for staff development, maintenance and care of the campus grounds and services, and educational staff counseling. These are the functions of the Faribault State Hospital.

The Faribault community plays an important role, for residents take part in community activities and utilize community resources. They are encouraged to participate on the FSH Volunteer Council, Advisory Board, as contributors, in a wide variety of volunteer programs as both direct and indirect volunteers.

The Administration Building (1958) is the first building on the right as you enter the campus. Here are administrative offices, word processing, business and computer center, personnel offices, facility and services, volunteer registration, switchboard reception and general community services.

Social workers help the residents maintain contact with family members, and the hospital has a counseling center, which is a division of the Minnesota Department of Health. The center is staffed by trained counselors who provide therapy for patients and families, and facilitate admission and discharge planning.

The Chaplains’ Department aids residents to freely exercise their own religion, provides worship services, religious instruction, consultation, and personal counseling.

The Residents’ Advocates program provides residents with a means through which residents’ rights are upheld, and assists clients, staff and families to understand and interpret laws, rules and regulations regarding commitment, treatment and rights.

There is a wide variety of associated departments that provide for staff development, maintenance and care of the campus grounds and services, and educational staff counseling. These are the functions of the Faribault State Hospital.
Faribault State Hospital originated in 1879 as an Experimental School for "children of weak minds" authorized by the State Legislature in response to a plea by the superintendent of the Minnesota Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind in Faribault. Its first pupils were transferred from the St. Peter and Rochester Hospitals for the Insane. In 1881, upon receiving a favorable report on the progress of the students, the Legislature established the school on a permanent basis and authorized construction of a building to house it on its own campus. Fifty students moved into the new building in February, 1882.

Within five years, the institution doubled in size; by 1885 there were over 300 residents of all ages. In that year a Farm Colony separate from the main campus was established. The population was classified into two groups: a school-industrial department for "improvable" residents and a home-custodial department for "unimprovables." For the former there were a wide variety of educational, vocational, rehabilitative, and recreational resources, while the latter were accorded primarily supervision, nursing care, and a modicum of recreation.

As practically Minnesota's sole resource for the mentally retarded, the waiting list for admission grew rapidly. By 1900 there were two additional large buildings and 500 residents. In 1901 a Colony for Epileptics was established to segregate and treat residents whose seizures disrupted their activities and those of other residents. Two additional farm colonies were established in the next decade.

During these early years the institution was world-famous for its level of care and training, its research into the characteristics and cause of mental retardation, its training of physicians, nurses, and teachers, and its influence on social policy with regard to retardation. However, continuing population pressure during two World Wars and a Depression, without accompanying staff increments, resulted in the institution's loss of much of this early distinction. Crowded conditions, outdated restrictive supervision, and public apathy toward physical plant and staffing needs were as true of Faribault State Hospital as of most other public mental hospitals. By 1955 the population had reached 3,350, with a waiting list of several hundred.

Where the previous 40 years were marked by stagnation, great changes have taken place in the past 30 years at Faribault State Hospital. Community residential, educational, vocational, and recreational resources were developed to the point that most of the residents have been discharged. The remaining 700 residents, 90 percent of who are severely or profoundly mentally retarded and multiply-handicapped, all receive active programming to reduce their dependencies. Residential buildings have been renovated so as to provide home-like environments and to enable staff to train residents to resume community living. Staffing has increased to a level that permits highly individualized program planning and implementation. Of the 1,094 staff, more than 20 percent are trained professionals. The institution is one of a select number in the nation accredited by the Accreditation Council for Programs for the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled.

FARIBAULT STATE HOSPITAL

(507) 332-3000