



Minnesota

STATE PLANNING AGENCY

Room 100 Capitol Square Building
550 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55101

TOWN MEETING

FARIBAULT STATE HOSPITAL REGION

August 29, 1984

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Miriam Karlins
Town Meeting Coordinator

"FOR YOUR INFORMATION": A
REVIEW OF CURRENT STUDIES

Colleen Wieck, Ph.D.
Project Director

CITIZENS RESPOND

Audience Participation

Resource persons are available in the audience to answer questions and supply additional information.

In order to allow time for maximum audience participation, please limit your comments to three minutes.

Persons wishing to write or phone their suggestions, concerns, or questions may do so by writing to Colleen Wieck, Ph.D., Project Director, State Planning Agency, 201 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, or phoning (612) 296-4018.

A one-day, toll free call-in will be held statewide on Tuesday, October 16, 1984, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The procedure will be for the caller to dial 1 (800) 652-9747 and ask to be connected to the "State Hospital Study." The state operator will then connect the caller to our phone.

POSITION STATEMENT
FARIBAULT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce believes that we would suffer a \$58 million loss if the Faribault State Hospital work force is reduced by one-third.

This figure is based on the existing \$25 million payroll multiplied by 7 (national economic estimate of the turnover of dollars in a community), providing a \$175 million total impact. As such, a 33% staff reduction would cause a \$58 million loss to our economy within the next 3 years. Our potential problem is compounded by the fact that the Faribault economy already has suffered losses from declining agriculture commodity prices, reduced number of small family farms, and the loss of agriculture-related businesses.

A major loss also occurred with the closing of Nutting Truck & Caster Co., resulting in about 70 lost jobs.

OUR LIST OF CONCERNS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- *The need for the licensing of employees who work in private group homes.
- *Efficient use of existing State Hospital buildings that recently were remodeled to accommodate 4-15 residents per household. Several buildings could be used in a cluster concept utilizing existing state ownership, state employees, and administration as a pilot project to determine true costs of residential care.
- *Highly-skilled employees with a combined total of hundreds of years of experience shouldn't be dispersed to other occupations requiring expensive re-training.
- *Part of the existing campus could be adapted to house a V.A. hospital. Since the two populations are very compatible with many shared programs, a minimum of extra staff skills would be needed to accomplish this goal.
- *Stress would be very severe for present residents who are forced to locate in a community that is void of mentally-handicapped citizens.
- *We are proud that Faribault for over 80 years has accepted this very special population and, in many cases, has provided employment for them.
- *Existing and proposed legislation does not provide for respite care or support specialized medical services for families electing to keep their retarded members at home.
- *Vocational and rehabilitational training are not funded through Waiver 19.
- *The cost of additional case workers needed to monitor the quality of care would not be cost-effective. The present social work caseload is 150 clients; the Waiver mandates a maximum of 25 clients. The additional staff required to monitor group home residents will be taken from the \$52 daily allotment per retardate on waived services, leaving very little monies available for programming and other needs.
- *Families of mentally-retarded individuals should have input regarding the placement of their family members in public or private institutions, as well as keeping the retarded person in the current county of residence (rather than the compulsory return to his/her home county). Some parents and guardians prefer a state campus with 124 acres and unlocked buildings to a 6 to 8-bed private group home with limited yard space.

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Faribault

Daily News



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Monday

August 27, 1984

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16 Pages

Meeting to address concerns about hospital

PAULINE SCHREIBER
News staff writer
Concerns about the future of the Faribault State Hospital will be the opportunity to voice their views Wednesday when members of the State Planning Agency will be in

cheduled at the Faribault Junior School from 7 to 9:30 p.m., the meeting is designed to help a Planning Agency committee understand the implications of decisions about the future of state hospitals.

ular meetings are planned in communities with state hospitals. Town meetings, together with studies being undertaken by the State Planning Agency, are designed to provide the governor and legislature with information on which to base future decisions.

State Planning Agency Director Tom Triplett has stated that he has received assurances from the governor and the Legislature that no state hospital will be closed until all the facts have been assembled and analyzed.

The studies include topics such as: client and staff needs, economic impact on communities if a state hospital closes, other uses of state hospital buildings, and whether the state should operate community facilities.

The State Planning Agency's study was authorized through legislation, passed through the efforts of Faribault Rep. Peter Rodosovich and other legislators with state hospitals in their districts, to address the question of the effect of "waivered services" on state hospitals.

Waivered services is a federal plan which allows states to collect Medicare dollars to fund care situations for the mentally retarded other than in a state hospital or large group-home setting.

Faribault's Sen. Clarence Purfeerst was among the senators who also worked on legislation related to waivered services.

With or without the advent of "waivered services," the population of Faribault State Hospital would have declined over the next two years, according to Warren Boch, acting director of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Mental Retardation Division.

Accounting for a greater impact on the population drop at state hospitals is a 1980 federal court order for the Department of Public Welfare to

improve direct-care, staff-to-resident ratios. The court-approved plan for compliance with those ratios was a "covenant decree" that requires the state to reduce its retarded patient population in state hospitals by 30 percent by 1987, Boch explained.

With waivered services and the covenant decree, Faribault State Hospital's current population of 400 could fall to 40 in three years, estimates Arnold Madow, FSH program director.

Present full-time job positions at the hospital number 1,063, Madow said. If, as predicted, the population of the FSH falls by one-third in three years, the number of workers needed at the FSH is likely to drop as well.

Communities with state hospitals are concerned that, as the number of patients declines, not all of the eight

present state hospitals will be needed in three years.

In addition, pending legislation on the national level means Faribault and other communities with state hospitals also face the possibility that all state hospitals may close.

A federal bill introduced in Congress by Republican Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island, would redirect Medicaid funding from the state hospitals and big private group homes to homes of 16 residents or fewer.

Medicaid, the federal health program for the poor and disabled, currently pays 50 percent of the cost for residential care, or about \$4 billion a year. Without the Medicaid funding, states could be forced to close their state hospitals caring for the mentally retarded.

Faribault State Hospital is the largest of the eight state hospitals. The

others are Moose Lake, Anoka, Brainerd, Cambridge, Fergus Falls, St. Peter and Wilmar. But only the Faribault and Cambridge hospitals are exclusively for the retarded.

The program at the Wednesday's public forum will consist of a brief presentation by Colleen Wisock, project director from the State Planning Agency. But most of the program will be devoted to audience participation.

Helping plan Wednesday's town meeting was a local Faribault task force headed by Faribault Chamber of Commerce President Helen Hoffmann.

Persons unable to attend the town meeting can send their suggestions to Colleen Wisock, Developmental Disabilities Program, State Planning Agency, 201 Capitol Square Building, 200 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

LEWIS



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Wednesday

August 29, 1984

Volume 70 No. 229

24 Pages

City adopts 'position statements' on FSH

By **BILL McGRATH**
Daily News staff writer

Closing the Faribault State Hospital could affect the community so much that the city council wants to influence related decisions as much as possible.

Tuesday night, the council approved a document outlining its concerns about the state hospital's future. In other business, the group decided to pay part time firefighters to take additional hours because three full-time firefighters are unable to work, and to set up a new system for handling complaints made to the police.

In the past year, state authorities have proposed that some state hospitals be either closed or reduced in size. An interagency board created by the state is holding a public hearing on the matter at 7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) at the Faribault Junior High.

The city council last night did not take a position on whether FSH should be closed. Instead, the group endorsed the following three positions, which will be presented to the interagency board tonight and subsequently

conveyed to the Legislature. The council is calling for:

"(1) The establishment of a public notice process that would provide an opportunity for input by relatives of State School residents, "host cities," and employee organizations with respect to policy determinations affecting state residential schools. Such a process could be initiated by a petition of the advocacy groups identified above, the Minnesota State Legislature or the administrative agencies.

"(2) The recognition of the economic development impact of state residential schools as a major area of concern. Regions of the state adversely affected by policy determinations of the State of Minnesota should receive 'priority status' for discretionary economic development programs. The Minnesota Legislature should consider directing appropriate state agencies to adopt rules that recognize adverse economic impact as a major criteria in funding or establishing public and private incentive programs.

"(3) The utilization of existing facility and labor resources of the State of Minnesota should receive serious consideration prior to the development of new facilities. The Legislature should consider establishing policy that requires any new construction or substantial remodeling to examine the feasibility of converting existing facilities or re-training existing personnel. An examination of the current Faribault State Hospital resources may result in providing 'out-patient' services, a training center for private sector health care staff, veterans hospital and so on. The long-term planning for state facilities and the state's work force requires an 'interagency' approach."

These three statements were endorsed unanimously by the council. Councilman Frank Schirmanski did not attend last night's meeting.

Three of the 15 fulltime firefighters have been unable to work lately.

One of them was involved in an off-duty motorcycle accident, and the

CITY COUNCIL

(Continued on page 2) *Not applicable*

Four reports...



Town meeting

A crowd estimated at around 750 people nearly filled the Faribault Junior High School auditorium for Wednesday evening's "town meeting" on the future of Faribault State Hospital. The 2½-hour-long

meeting, called by the State Planning Agency, was held so the facts and feelings could be expressed by members of the community. (Daily News photos by Greg Beckel)

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Faribault Daily News - Aug 30, 74

now \$180 billion annually.

For the moment, the two say the study group is concentrating more on budget management principles than offering suggestions for specific

used for something else, he said.

They also are asking people what they think of "sunset" provisions for all federal programs, requiring them to be periodically re-established by

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...SCHREIBER
...staff writer

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...Faribault State Hospital buildings —
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...ian leader, the fallen founder of the Phalange Party. He died Tuesday at age 78 of a heart attack.

The government has declared a three-day national mourning for Gemayel, beginning today. His funeral was scheduled for this evening in Tyre, his mountaintop hometown where he died, 10 miles northeast of Beirut.

In his will, Gemayel wrote that he wanted to be buried at the family tomb in a simple wooden coffin next to his slain son, Bashir, and his daughter, Maya, who was killed in a car bomb blast at age 4 in 1979, the official announcement said.

Bashir was elected president by Parliament in 1982, but was assassinated during his inauguration. His brother, Amin, was then elected president and served the office for the last two years.

The death of Gemayel casts a further shadow on the nation's already slim chances of halting the nine-year civil war. Only former President Elias Suleiman, a fellow Christian and political rival, came close to Gemayel in national influence.

Lie in Cameroon jetliner fire

JAL, Cameroon — A Cameroon Airlines passenger jet caught fire as it prepared to take off for Yaounde, and National Cameroon Radio reported 70 people died. U.S. officials said five Americans were hurt, but none injuries appeared serious.

The radio report did not say how many of the reported 116 people aboard the Boeing 737 were injured. An early report by the French news agency Agence France Presse had quoted unidentified sources as saying up to 100 were killed.

Consul General Charles Twining in Douala, Cameroon's largest city, said there were seven Americans aboard the plane, including three women. He said their identities would not be made public until they had been notified of their families. He said all of the Americans were residents of the United States.

U.S. officials said the cause of the fire was not known.

Cold snap threatens coffee crop

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — A five-day cold snap is surprising for this tropical South American nation with frosts and freezing temperatures, and is threatening higher coffee prices for U.S. markets.

The unusual winter weather has killed or damaged crops in the south and along the beaches in Rio. At least nine people have frozen to death in Sao Paulo. Even in the Amazon jungle state of Acre, the mercury fell to 49 degrees.

The weather is not unknown in Brazil during the southern hemisphere winter months of June-August. But the extreme temperatures so late in the season are unusual.

Frosts in the key coffee-growing state of Parana have damaged trees that will produce next year's crop.

Deficiencies found in weapons

LOS ANGELES — With the Air Force refusing shipments of three cruise missiles from the Hughes Aircraft Co. because of alleged deficiencies, the Navy now says it has found problems with two more systems built by the giant aerospace firm.

The Navy said Wednesday it discovered deficiencies with the company's new Tomahawk missile, a computerized bomb accuracy device, and

The inaugural flight of the first shuttle, Columbia, was delayed two days by computer software problems, while the second shuttle, Challenger, had

new commands to get around the problem, and after extensive tests, NASA reported the program would work "under even the worst-case conditions."

State hospital

(Continued from page 1)

program for the poor and disabled, currently pays 50 percent of the cost of residential care, or about \$4 billion a year. Without the Medicaid funding, states could be forced to close their state hospitals caring for the mentally retarded.

There has been no data supporting the premise that the mentally retarded can be adequately cared for in groups of 10 residents or less, said Dean Thomas, parent of a FSH resident and member of the FSH Advisory Board. Thomas was one of around half-dozen parents of FSH residents to speak at the meeting.

Thomas was opposed to Chaffee's bill that would force the closing of state hospitals and praised the care his child receives at FSH. "The advisory board believes the capabilities exist to make Faribault State Hospital one of the most outstanding institutions in the United States," he stated. "Why disband that?"

Thomas's words drew a standing ovation from the crowd.

State hospital residents are provided with the services of an occupational therapist, physical therapist, medical physician, psychiatrist, dentist and speech therapist, nursing care if needed, plus a five-day-a-week training and development program. Several people at the meeting questioned whether small group homes could afford to provide such services at the same cost as the state hospitals.

Mel Hecht, parent of the FSH residents, said, "Parents believe their children are receiving the best care possible now at the Faribault State Hospital, and believe the state hospital is capable of providing a higher quality of care than group homes."

Hecht added he was impressed with the improvement of the staff over the last 10 to 15 years and the improvements at the FSH during that time. "It is important that residents have a diversified staff available to them," Hecht said.

For small group homes to provide the same services as state hospitals, it

get quality care in those homes, said Jack Lockner, Faribault City councilman.

Lockner added, "We hear of children in day care centers being abused and they come home each night and can talk with their parents. Now we are talking about people who can't talk and putting them in private group homes. How can all those homes be monitored to make sure (residents) aren't being abused?"

Taking residents out of the state hospital and scattering them in many small group homes "degrades the quality of care they receive," said Dan Moline, a representative who spoke from the Faribault Industrial Corp.

Moline added that placing residents in small group homes will likely not save money and "change should be to provide something better for the mentally retarded, not necessarily because it is a cheaper way of providing services."

One parent of a resident testified that she was concerned that the state was eliminating a parents' option of choosing between having their child in a state institution or a group home.

"It will be a community placement in a group home is what the state seems to be telling us. I am concerned that might be the case in the future," the parent said. "Parents are the first to push for what is best for their child. Community placement is not always beneficial."

Some other matters brought up at the town meeting included:

—A need exists for a better comparison of the cost of residential care vs. group home care to determine which is more cost-effective, considering the many specialized services provided by state hospitals.

—A change in legislation should be made to enable state hospitals to be used by families with mentally retarded children for respite care, dental services and other specialized services.

—Since the closing of the Rochester State Hospital in 1973, there has been a

6/27/87

Issues' of FSH told by persons at town meeting

By PAULINE SCHREIBER
Daily News staff writer

A crowd of 750 gathered Wednesday evening in a steamy Faribault Junior High School auditorium for a town meeting on the future of the Faribault State Hospital.

All those in the audience who chose to speak were warm in another sense — in their regard for the hospital's positive role in the care and nurturance of the mentally retarded.

The Faribault Chamber of Commerce estimated the city would suffer an economic loss of \$58 million over the next three years if the Faribault State Hospital work force were reduced by one-third — a likely possibility because of a state plan to reduce the number of residents at FSH by 30 percent in three years.

Several people wanted to know how group homes are monitored to insure the mentally retarded living in them receive quality care and are not being abused, since many residents leaving the FSH are placed in group homes.

In the event the hospital is closed at some future date, others at the meeting suggested alternative uses for Faribault State Hospital buildings — such as for a veterans home, service center for the mentally ill or site for a chemical-dependency treatment program.

Last night's town meeting was one of nine scheduled by the State Planning Agency in communities with state hospitals. The planning agency has been directed by the Legislature to conduct a thorough study of the impact of deinstitutionalization of the mentally retarded on communities with state hospitals.

"No decision has been made, or will be made to close any state hospital until after all town meetings are held and our other studies have been put together and given to the Legislature," Miriam Karlins, State Planning Agency staff member and town meetings coordinator, told the crowd at the beginning of the 2½ hour session.

"The State Planning Agency has no authority to make decisions. We are here for fact gathering," Ms. Karlins added. "We will turn over to the Legislature information we gather at

One part of the agency's study will be "the feasibility of state workers operating day programs and group homes in the community" as a way providing employment for workers displaced by the deinstitutionalization of state hospitals, said Colleen Wieck, who is heading the State Planning Agency's committee conducting the study.

The agency will also be investigating alternative uses for state hospital facilities as part of its study, and working with an interagency board representing different state government departments in planning those uses.

The reason communities with state hospitals are fearful of a hospital closure is that Minnesota plans to reduce its mentally retarded population in state hospitals from the present total of 2,200 to around 1,700 by July 1, 1987. Not all state hospitals for the mentally retarded would be needed with such reductions.

But another fear is a federal bill introduced in Congress by Republican Sen. John Chaffee of Rhode Island which would redirect Medicaid funding from state hospitals and big private group homes to homes of 10 residents or fewer.

Medicaid, the federal health
STATE HOSPITAL
(Continued on page 2)



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used for something else, he said. They also are asking people what they think of "sunset" provisions for all federal programs, requiring them to be periodically re-established by congress.

Some congressional leaders don't like the ideas, Penny and MacKay said. "Some congressmen have built their careers on one program. Neither side wants to consider what it would be like not to get their pet program through," said MacKay.

"Everyone fighting for their own deal is what got us in this

the group favors are spending so it does not more than inflation, and not w taxes before Congress ally where the revenue



Dean Thomas

stand a expressing the hospital.

the same services as state hospitals, feel would be much more costly," Hecht said.

Most group homes usually only have specialized staff available to serve residents on a consulting basis, Hecht said, and there is a faster turnover rate of staff in group homes. "Parents feel a lot more stability by having their child in a state-operated facility," he added.

Group homes do serve a need by providing residents who can benefit from such placement the opportunity to live within communities, said Lois Paulson, a social worker at the Faribault hospital and head of the FSH union for professional workers. However, she added there is a population at the FSH with special needs and with extreme behavior problems that can benefit more from a state hospital setting and the services provided there than from a group home.

There should be a place for both state institutions and group homes under Minnesota's umbrella of services for the mentally retarded, said Frank Schimanski, Faribault City councilman and FSH employee.

Schimanski also told the State Planning Agency that families of residents and even the residents themselves should be asked for their opinions on Minnesota's plan to transfer one-third of state hospital residents into private group homes over the next three years.

Workers in private group homes need to be licensed to assure residents

state hospital two years ago, southeastern Minnesota has not had a unit for the mentally ill. Some FSH buildings could be utilized as a unit for the mentally ill.

-The economic impact of closing a state hospital in cities outside the Twin Cities area would be greater than for those in the metropolitan area, since communities such as Faribault have fewer opportunities for economic development than those in metro communities.

-There is need for a plan to transfer experienced state hospital workers displaced by the deinstitutionalization plan to group homes, some of which could be owned by the state and operated by displaced state employees.

Faribault Rep. Peter Rodosovich spoke at the beginning of the meeting and explained the legislation that ordered the State Planning Agency study and creation of the interagency board to study the future of the state hospitals. The legislation requires "the state to be concerned with the employees and communities upon which a closing of a state hospital would have an economic impact," Rodosovich said.

Faribault Sen. Clarence Purfeerst also spoke briefly. He mentioned that beside the town meeting, during the 1985 Legislative session hearings will be held on any proposed legislation relating to the state hospitals, and the public will have a chance to speak at those meetings.