

CARLTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

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March 22, 1988

W. Pinsonnault, Director

Roger Strand
Governor's Planning Council on
Developmental Disabilities
State Planning Agency
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RECEIVED
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**Minnesota D.D.
Council**

Re: Carlton County's use of Waivered Services and providing for Residential Services in community sites

Dear Roger:

The following are some examples of how we have used Waivered Services in Carlton County to provide individuals with developmental disabilities to live in the community.

A 16-year-old boy who had been in out-of-home placement since age 2 and in Brainerd Regional Human Services Center since 1973, was placed in a foster home with Waivered Services in June of 1986. ___'s parents did not want him to leave Brainerd, as they felt his needs could not be met in the community and, indeed, he could die without the immediate on-site medical services they felt were available at Brainerd. ___'s diagnosis includes severe mental retardation, profound adaptive behavior deficits, microcephaly secondary, blind, no speech, major motor seizures controlled with medication, spasticity, and severe paraplegia. As one of triplets, with an older brother, his parents struggled to meet his needs and his brothers' for two years. Severe seizures that required hospitalization and careful medical monitoring along with professionals who underlined the special needs of ___ and the special care that was required, lead ___'s parents to use out-of-home placement for meeting his complex needs. As a result of him being placed outside of his home county and because of the parents' feelings that they were not able to provide for his needs, over the years, there was less and less contact. ___ essentially had no family that he knew or had emotional ties with.

The court process was used in developing community placement, as it was felt that ___'s needs were not best met at Brainerd Regional Human Services Center and the parents did not agree that a community placement was appropriate. Long waits for scheduled court hearings were used to offer information on alternatives in the community, what his parents saw as ___'s needs, what were their needs, what they wanted for him, and what services, philosophies, and funding were available now that weren't at the time of the original placement. While they did not support the placement, there was trust established and when there was a court order for his placement in the community, there was also the beginning of a partnership with his parents to ensure services were appropriate and he was incorporated into a family with sufficient supports for the family to care for him.