

Faribault Regional Center

July 25, 1988

A Task Force Report

Volume 1, No. 2

WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE FARIBAULT REGIONAL CENTER
TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER

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The actions of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Negotiating Committee are important to the Faribault Task Force so we would like to include a summary of the Committees progress in our newsletter. At the most recent meeting of the DHS Negotiating Committee, participants began the process of presenting each organization's goals concerning the future role of State operated residential facilities. The July 27, 1988 meeting, as well as an additional half day on July 28, 1988, will also be devoted to presentations. Several Department of Human Services employees have made presentations of the current State operated system representing mental health, health care and residential programs, social service programs, and the chemical dependency division.

Helen Hoffmann, chair of the Faribault Task Force, recently visited Willmar, Fergus Falls, Ah-Gwah-Ching, and Brainerd's regional treatment centers with a group of Legislators and gathered firsthand information about facilities similar to Faribault's.

The Shared Services Subcommittee has recently distributed a survey to a large number of service providers in the 13 county region. A good return is expected to help the Subcommittee determine which services currently provided by the Faribault Regional Center could be expanded to assist county and private agencies. This is currently being done for some services. One example is the Faribault Regional Center laundry. The laundry provides services for facilities in Faribault, both county and private, as well as State and private agencies as far as the Twin Cities.

The Residential Populations Subcommittee is developing a more detailed plan for establishing a mentally ill unit at the Regional Center. This involves researching the need for a facility to serve mentally ill clients in our region. The plan would utilize the existing staff and buildings in the most efficient manner possible.

The Rehabilitation Subcommittee is focusing on the need for a rehabilitation unit to serve persons in the area who have suffered closed head trauma. The goal would be to provide services that are not available in this region while utilizing existing staff and buildings at the Regional Center.

The Education Subcommittee **has** identified areas where they could **assist each** of the other **subcommittees** by offering training or retraining for people interested in **working with the new populations that may** be served. The subcommittee recently surveyed local health **care providers and educational institutions** to determine the level of interest in the development of a **training consortium**. Such a **consortium** would offer local providers an opportunity to join together and train employees from several agencies at one time. This would save employers money and time.

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FARIBAULT REGIONAL CENTER TASK FORCE MISSION STATEMENT

The Community Task Force of Faribault recognizes that although the Development ally Disabled population of the Faribault Regional Center is decreasing, there will always be a need for services and housing for a specialized population of Developmentally Disabled persons. It is further recognized that there is a need for services in Southeastern Minnesota for additional disabled populations whose needs are currently not being met due to closure of the Rochester State Hospital Presently, there is a highly trained, varied staff employed at the Faribault Regional Center. In addition, Faribault is a supportive and accepting community for disabled persons.

Therefore, the Task Force, which is an outgrowth of an already standing committee, resolves to explore alternative uses of the Faribault Regional Center. We propose to develop a specific plan detailing our mission, time lines, and methods to implement our goals. When identified, these goals will extend the resources of the Regional Center to the private sector and other public agencies on a fee for service basis and enter into cooperative contracts and or agreements with the Faribault Technical Institute, Rice County District One Hospital, the Academies for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wilson Center.

Welcome to the first issue of the Faribault Regional Center Task Force newsletter! In order to provide the public wit up-to-date information about the activities and progress of the Task Force, this newsletter will be printed monthly following each Task Force meeting.

The Faribault community is very proud to have initiated a task force such as this one, developed to propose alternative uses for our Regional Center. The Regional Center is a valuable provider for not only our community, but our region. The services it offers the developmentally disabled are the best available, tailored specifically to meet their needs. It also is the largest employer in Faribault, providing jobs for trained individuals with specialized knowledge, skill, and interest.

When the Rochester State Hospital closed in 1982, the community of Faribault and the whole area became concerned. The danger of a similar occurrence at our facility seemed eminent. The State assured the employees and clients of the Faribault Regional Center, as well as the citizens of Faribault, that such an event would not happen here. Sandra Gardebring, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), has established a Regional Treatment Center (RTC) Negotiating Committee, funded by the State of Minnesota, to examine the future role of the ten Regional Centers in Minnesota. Organizations and communities that are directly involved with or dependent upon these facilities have been invited to send a representative to the Negotiating Committee meetings. Helen Hoffmann, the Chair of the Faribault Regional Center Task Force, is the representative for the community of Faribault and Nancy McCarthy, Task Force member, is the alternate.

Faribault's Task Force has 13 members who were selected by the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and are as follows.

<u>Name and Position</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Bill Saufferer, Chief Executive Officer	Faribault Regional Center
Viril Layton, FTI Director	Faribault Technical Inst.
Dr. Richard Berge, Superintendent	Faribault Public Schools
Hade Karli, Superintendent	Minnesota Academies for the Deaf and Blind
Bob Armagost, Vice President	The Wilson Center
Nancy McCarthy, Social Services Supervisor	Rice County
Patrick Hentgès, City Administrator	City of Faribault
Judith Tartaglia, Public Relations Director	District One Hospital
Terry Anderson	Dept. of Human Services
Russ Kennedy, Owner	Private Group Homes
Marilyn Carstenson, Employee	Faribault Regional Center
Diane Sammon, Parent-Developmentally Disabled Child	
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These members can be defined as knowledgeable and competent leaders in their fields, with expertise in the areas being investigated.

Members meet once a month to review the progress of the subcommittees and plan for the next month. There are four subcommittees that were formed to investigate the most efficient uses for the current facility and staff at the Regional Center. These subcommittees are Rehabilitation, Residential Populations, Shared Services/Respite Care, and Education.

The Rehabilitation Subcommittee is looking at establishing a rehabilitation unit to serve people from the region who have suffered a catastrophic illness or injury. This joint venture with the Regional Center and District One Hospital would utilize the skilled staff and expertise of the various discipline specialists, thereby offering a concentrated team of health care practitioners to provide a "wholistic" approach to maintain or restore the person to health.

The Residential Populations Subcommittee is examining the need for a program that serves mentally ill clients in the Southeast Minnesota region. They also are working on gathering statistical information to support the potential need for a Veterans facility in this region.

The Shared Services/Respite Care Subcommittee is actively working on a survey to distribute to area providers to identify their needs in an expanded, shared service program.

The Education Subcommittee has a broader, less defined task at the present time. They are involved with each of the other subcommittees and have the task of examining the present and future needs of educational training as new programs are developed. They are currently surveying local health care and education providers to determine where they can focus their efforts to be beneficial to all involved.

City of Faribault
208 N.W. First Ave.
Faribault, MN 55021

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