

44-MSF-EDG
State Inst Gen

November 1, 1944

Mr. George W. Frasier
President
Colorado State College of Education
Greeley, Colorado

Dear Mr. Frasier:

We received your request for information concerning our institution and regret the delay in answering it. We hope that it will still be useful to you. In the enclosed report we have tried to follow the outline which you sent us as closely as possible. We do not have any separate annual report as our reports are made biennially and are contained in the Report of the Division of Public Institutions which includes all the state institutions. The one for the biennial period ending June 30, 1944 is not in print as yet although it has been prepared.

Your twelfth question refers to the State Reformatories. Minnesota has the State Training School for Boys at Red Wing, Minnesota which is in charge of Mr. C.J. Jackson, Superintendent. There is also the Minnesota Home School for Girls at Sauk Center, Minnesota which is in charge of Miss Katherine Hattendorf, Superintendent. We presume that you could secure more information from these persons, if you wish to write to them directly.

We shall be glad to supply any more information in detail which might be of assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

E.J. Engberg, M.D.
Superintendent

CP:RR
encl.

CONCERNING STATE INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DEFECTIVES

Report of Minnesota School for Feeble-minded Faribault, Minnesota

1. Population

- a. Total population as of October 31, 1944, 2581
- b. All ages are accepted depending upon the need and the space in a specified classification group. We have patients with a marked mental deficiency who are only a few months old up to men and women who are over 80 years old.
- c. On January 8, 1933 the population classifications were as follows:

I.Q.	0-24	548
	25-49	398
	50-69	842
	70-74	72
	75 and over	<u>18</u>
	Total	2472

The increase in our population today is primarily that of low grade helpless patients who have been admitted to our hospital and to our over-crowded infirmaries. Therefore the number in the idiot group would be larger. Our epileptics are not classified separately but are part of those counted. There are about 48 females and 45 males, who have been identified as having convulsive disorders. There may be others for whom a diagnosis has not been made.

2. Educational Program

- a. The school department presents a modification of the general public school system with much repetition of class work. There are seven academic rooms, ranging from two for kindergartens and one for each of the grades through the fifth. About 400 patients either have a full time school program or attend an industrial or handicraft room part time. For those of school age and ability one-half the day is spent in an academic room and one-half in industrial, music, and physical education classes. These number about 225 boys and girls. The industrial and handicraft training consists of sewing, cooking, weaving, knitting, embroidery, needle point, for the girls and net, caning, brush mat making and woodworking for the boys.

3. Recreational Program

- a. All recreational activities of the institution are in charge of the School Department. School programs are given by the children under the supervision of the teachers. The boys' band and orchestra furnish music for the school dances which are held every other week on Tuesday and Friday evenings, as well as for the weekly

3. Recreational Program (Cont.)

band concerts held during the summer. The Sunday choir is selected from the vocal music classes. A news reel is shown every Wednesday during the assembly period and moving pictures are shown twice a month. Each film is run three times to accommodate all the patients.

At Christmas Santa Claus and the band visit all the buildings distributing candy, peanuts, and gifts to all. A Christmas tree with colored lights is placed on each grade.

Picnics are held during the summer for the various buildings. A Fourth of July program is arranged on the campus including games and refreshments in the afternoon and a band concert in the evening.

4. Educational Personnel

a. There are 9 full time teachers in all as follows:

Principal
3 Music - vocal and instrumental
1 Physical Education
1 Domestic Science
7 Academic
8 Handicraft and Industrial

b. A state psychologist comes to the institution from the Bureau of Psychological Services, Division of Public Institutions, St. Paul, Minnesota. The plan is to have her services one week a month but due to the curtailment of staff it is not always possible to have this program carried out consistently.

c. The non-denominational services on Sundays are conducted by the clergymen from the local Protestant churches. Each one usually comes to the institution for one month. In addition Lutheran and Catholic services are conducted once a week. These clergymen also make special visits to the hospital, to crippled patients, and to others who cannot attend the services.

A full time librarian maintains both a childrens' library and an employees' library. Her major effort is directed toward the patients. Academic classes have a library period once a week. All capable of reading draw out books as from a public library. The librarian also entertains the children with stories read aloud. She also visits the hospital and other cottages in order to bring books to those who cannot visit the library.

d. (1) All employees except the chaplains and the superintendent are under the state civil service regulations.
(2) Due to abnormal employment conditions there is a lack of help in all departments. It would be desirable

d. Educational Personnel

(3) Cont.

to employ only teachers who have state teachers' certificates or even some who have special class certificates or special courses in special education. In reality only a few of our teachers have this preparation.

e. Salary Schedules

(1) Minimum teachers salary - \$123.00
Maximum teachers salary - \$175.00

(2) Average salary - \$128.75
This salary range includes \$30.00 for maintenance. If the teacher lives at the institution the \$30.00 is deducted.

5. Facilities

a. Education and Recreation

The school department is housed in a wing of the main building. There are seven academic class rooms on the main floor. There are six rooms upstairs, five of which are used for industrial and handicraft training—the sixth for music. A small gymnasium with a ceiling which is too low is also on the second floor. The institution needs a new school department containing an adequate gymnasium. The rest of the industrial classrooms are distributed throughout the separate divisions for men and women. The school childrens' library is also on the main floor of the school department.

The outdoor recreational activities such as picnics and band concerts are arranged on the campus which is encircled by the various buildings and cottages. An assembly hall in connection with the main offices and school department offers facilities for about 400 patients to attend chapel services or to view the movies. For the entertainments for which dancing and games are enjoyed the chairs are cleared and placed around the sides. As this assembly hall is not fireproof and is reached by stairways from the ground level, a fireproof assembly hall should be included in the proposed new school building.

There are also playgrounds near each building and a large athletic field where the boys can play baseball and kittenball.

b. Religious facilities

The religious services which have been described are held in the assembly hall on Sunday morning. Three Sunday schools are conducted by the teachers in various

b. Religious Facilities (Cont)

other departments in order to include as many as possible in the religious program.

- c. In general, any boy or girl with a mental age of 5 or over, from six years to eighteen years old, participates in the educational program. There are many exceptions made for the older patients who can profit by the training in the industrial and handicraft classes. There have been some exceptions made in academic work for a few older patients who were ambitious to learn to read and write.

All patients participate in the educational programs except the very helpless ones and those of the lowest mentality.

6. See numbers 2 and 3 on page 1.

7. ADMISSION and Discharge Procedure

a.

- (1) The feeble-minded individual is committed in Probate Court in the county of residence. Commitment is to the guardianship of the Director of Public Institutions. The state ward may be wherever he makes the best adjustment while in the community. The local county Welfare Board assumes supervision and arrangements for admission to the institution. The state Bureau for Feeble-minded and Epileptic in the Division of Public Institutions. Due to the crowded conditions in the institution, there is a waiting list of over one thousand.
- (2) When the patient is first admitted, he remains in the hospital for two weeks, the medical staff examine him and his case is presented at a conference consisting of the supervisors, school principal, hospital supervisor, social worker, and physicians. The superintendent presides. The history of the patient is reviewed and a recommendation is made regarding placement in the institution. A mental examination may be recommended although usually psychological study has been instituted by the Welfare Board before the patient was admitted. Other cases who have been in residence in the institutions are also discussed at this conference and suggestions made.
- (3) Discharge from the institution is under the direction of the Bureau for Feeble-minded and Epileptic. Usually a plan of supervision has been outlined by the county welfare board whose responsibility it will be to look after the discharged patient.

b. Proportion

The institution has a turnover of at least 300 a year. Of these up to 100 are sent to the rest are patients for whom some plan can be made for their care in the community. The various county welfare boards send reports to the State Bureau for Feeble-minded and

7. b. Cont.

Epileptic concerning the wards who have been discharged.

8. The length of time which a patient spends in the institution depends upon the degree of subnormality, the case history and the possibility of making plans for placement after a training period. For example, a low-grade helpless patient would be here for life while a person of normal mentality might remain for a training period of only a few years.

9. Rehabilitation Program

Formerly there were maintained several clubs located in the large cities of Minnesota for the placement of mentally defective girls with the intention of helping them to become self supporting. However, during the depression years the cost became prohibitive and they were abandoned. Within the institution the older girls are trained to do laundry, waitress, and household work. The older boys help in the shops, laundry, kitchen, bakery, greenhouse, and on the farms. Many of the brighter ones are now self supporting in the community after receiving training in the institution.

10. The gross per capita cost for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944 was \$248.00. This estimate is somewhat higher than in past years because of the increased cost of items in current expense.

11(a) Minnesota maintains a Colony for Epileptics at Cambridge. The greater number of epileptics there are also mentally defective and are committed as such. There are a few small private schools for mental defectives but their population numbers are negligible.

(b) The infirmaries for helpless or imbeciles and the buildings for hyper-active patients of lower mentality are more than filled and the majority of those on the waiting list should be accepted for these classifications. A building program has been planned and the funds appropriated by the legislature but it is impossible to obtain the materials as yet.

12. The question regarding the boys' state reformatories does not apply to the experience of those supervising the Minnesota School for Feebleminded. The chronic defective delinquents are committed and placed on the waiting list and sent to the institution in the same manner as the other feebleminded wards. The problem presented in Minnesota is whether the defective delinquent should be placed in some other institution or not.