

SS - SGT - DPA

State Inst Gen - Super Intngs, State Inst by Inst - Gillette

MINUTES OF SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING

GILLETTE STATE HOSPITAL

September 21, 1955

10 a.m.

1. Consideration of Minutes of August 12, 1955 Meeting.

Due to the fact that the minutes had not been distributed earlier, consideration of them will be given at the next superintendents' meeting.

2. Gillette State Hospital Scoliosis Program,

Present and Future Miss Conklin
Dr. Moe
Dr. Walton

Dr. Walton, Orthopedic resident of Gillette State Hospital introduced the scoliosis program and commented on the fact that there are only five programs in this field in the United States and that this state was very fortunate in having the facilities of Gillette State Hospital and the staff serving these patients. He commented on the fact that they are limited in research facilities for compilation of needed data which would be of value to other workers in this field.

Dr. Walton said there are two types of scoliosis - functional or postural, which can be corrected easily, and structural scoliosis which will persist even when recumbent. Their operative measures have been, for the most part, limited to the severe or progressive type.

The Risser table is used to put on the cast which may be used as a corrective device without surgery or used with surgery. There was a demonstration of the use of the table and localizer and an application of a cast was done on a volunteer patient.

Because of the extensiveness of the fusions necessary it has been customary to limit operative procedures to four hours. Consequently, 69 operative procedures have been done on 42 patients since the program started in 1950.

Slides were shown depicting the pre-operative and post-operative degrees of deformities. In the beginning of the program, patients were kept in the hospital for a fairly long period. Now the length of stay is cut to one-third of the previous hospital care. In those cases amenable to correction by cast, after the cast is applied the patients are sent home with instructions as to their care. The same procedure is followed when surgery is done with recommendations that both types return for out-patient observation. As a result of this the out-patient visits have been greatly increased but length of hospitalization has been reduced for these cases.

3. Reports

a. Reclassification of positions

A report was made of the approval of the Civil Service Board and the Department of Administration for the following positions, effective

October 1, 1955:

Psychiatric Social Worker I	350-400
Psychiatric Social Worker II	370-420
Medical Social Worker I	350-400
Medical Social Worker II	370-420

Approval has been given by the Civil Service Board but not yet acted on by the Department of Administration for the following:

Clinical Psychologist I	370-420
Clinical Psychologist II	445-505
Clinical Psychologist III	580-650
Clinical Psychologist IV	620-690
Hospital Social Service Supervisor	445-505
Inst. Social Service Consultant	505-565

It was explained that present psychiatric social workers II may wish to take the examination which will be set up for the psychiatric social workers III. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Feider will reexamine all existing positions and make recommendations if any changes are necessary.

b. Research meeting on new tranquilizing drugs at Galesburg, Illinois.

The report of this meeting by Dr. Lazarte will be sent under separate cover with sufficient copies for the staff members of the hospitals.

4. Task Force on Self Survey

Material had been forwarded to the superintendents on September 1, 1955 and it was brought out that no additional material had been received so far. At the first meeting of the task force for the mental hospitals it was decided that each hospital would select two members from that hospital to be added to the five members of the task force committee of the central office. Mr. Max Gilbert will select one member from the employee group at each hospital and the superintendent will select the other member from the administrative staff.

There will be a separate task force for Faribault and Cambridge State Schools and Hospitals, Minnesota State Sanatorium and Gillette State Hospital.

5. Collaboration on Newspaper Series by Dick Wanek

Mr. Wanek visited the medical director recently for the purpose of getting material to write a series of articles on various types of mental illness. He had been impressed by interviews he heard at a visit to a hospital in Illinois as being productive of material that would help the public better understand mental illness. He proposes to furnish his own soundsciber and would like to record interviews between patients and physicians to use as background for his articles.

A recent situation at Hastings State Hospital was mentioned in which a radio station was sent a tape recrding of patients in group therapy. In spite of the fact that Dr. Grimes called the station as soon as he heard of it, through some error it went on the air. It was the opinion of the

superintendents that this sort of thing could have unfortunate results. Dr. Grimes mentioned that he had some tape recordings of interviews that might be suitable for Mr. Wanek if he could listen to them at the hospital, but under no circumstances were they to be taken away by Mr. Wanek. Mr. Wanek will be asked to contact Dr. Grimes.

6. Proposed Research at Moose Lake State Hospital and St. Louis County.

Because some of the superintendents had not received their agenda in time to study the proposed research project, a general explanation of the project was given. The essence of the project is that a team will be assigned to the hospital for pre-discharge planning and there will be a similar team working in the community. There will be two study groups which will contain four sub-groups each. There was some discussion on the problems of contamination and the superintendents were asked to study the research project and if they had any suggested modifications to send them in within the week as it was planned to submit the request to personnel of the National Institute of Mental Health.

7. Other Business

a. Proposed research program.

Mr. Burkholder introduced Dr. Peterson and Dr. Barry Campbell of the University of Minnesota who presented a resume of a research program in lactation which they have been carrying on since 1946. They have found that antigenic gamma globulin can be produced in cows milk by immunizing them during the last month of gestation and that the antibodies in the milk apparently protect the milk consumer from challenges by the antigen.

Dr. Campbell discussed the fact that bacillus acidophilus was the apparent cause of a considerable amount of dental caries and wanted to know if we could assist with research to test the effectiveness of drinking milk from cows immunized with this organism. Drs. Engberg, Campbell and Peterson will explore the feasibility of conducting such a program at Faribault. If any other superintendent wishes to cooperate he should write to Drs. Peterson and Campbell.

Drs. Peterson and Campbell also need additional cows for other research in this field. Since there would be no loss to milk production at the hospitals and no danger to the animals, the superintendents indicated their willingness to furnish a limited number of animals if Mr. Burkholder can work out the legal details.

b. Volunteer committees in the counties.

Dr. Cameron presented Mrs. Karlins' proposed program - the establishment of a volunteer committee to assist the county welfare boards in placement and service to the discharged patients in the county. This could be a pilot study, in the beginning using two or three counties. It could also include service for the mentally retarded.

c. Anesthesia needs.

The State Prison at Stillwater has asked as to the availability of extra anesthesia equipment as they are in need of such equipment. However, there was no surplus equipment available.

d. Escapees.

While it is realized that all escapees are reported on the daily population sheet, the superintendents were asked in the case of any escapee who may be potentially dangerous that a separate memo be sent in to Mr. Hursh for his information. The telephone numbers of persons in the central office who may be contacted over the week-end will be sent to the superintendents.

e. Mr. Holtan's report on fire prevention.

Mr. Holtan reported that he had met with Mr. Zelzer on the use of the \$350,000 appropriated for fire prevention. He gave the following figures as being very tentative and subject to change at a later meeting.

Fergus Falls, maine line to reservoir	\$ 35,000.00
Gillette State Hospital, fire exit	2,000.00
Willmar, water tank and main	191,000.00
Braille and Sight Saving School	
Faribault, fire alarm	7,000.00
Faribault State School and Hospital	
Line to cottage and dairy	
Owatonna State School	
Line and complete loop	76,000.00
St. Peter State Hospital, complete loop	35,000.00
Anoka State Hospital,	
Line and complete loop	38,000.00

Mr. Holtan reported that 3% of the total appropriation had to be reserved for contingencies. 6% of the total appropriation would be set aside for the engineer's fee.

f. Fire drills.

The question was raised as to whether or not periodic fire drills were held in the institutions. There was a report of varying programs in this regard. St. Peter State Hospital has a weekly fire drill. Fergus Falls can only hold fire drills during the summer months. Rochester State Hospital has a fire drill once a month. The superintendent of Moose Lake State Hospital reported that with the new buildings they felt there was no need to have fire drills. Each hospital was asked to establish drills involving patients.

g. Rochester news release.

There was a discussion as to the recent publicity concerning the needs of Rochester State Hospital. Dr. Cameron discussed this with Dr. Peterson and also with Mr. Hursh and the Governor. As a result of

these discussions the Governor asked to have all special problems brought to his attention. The superintendents were requested to prepare letters concerning their more crucial needs so that Dr. Cameron and Mr. Hursh can send them to the Governor. It was brought out that sometime in the past there had been discussion as to the freedom of local news release by the institutions. This policy still prevails. However, if any news release is being planned concerning over-all departmental policies, the central office should be notified of the news release before it is printed.

h. Special drug account.

A request had been sent to the various superintendents asking for a report on the number of patients who were receiving any of the tranquilizing drugs at the present time, the projected cost for the rest of the fiscal year, and the number of patients who could be helped but who are not on the drugs at the present time due to lack of funds.

Mr. Hursh has said that he would be willing to ask the IAC for more money for the drugs if it was necessary. A poll was taken of the various institutions as to the number of patients who are now receiving the tranquilizing agents and the additional number who would be treated if funds were available. The following list shows those on drugs. With the exception of one hospital it was the consensus about only one-half the needed drugs were now available.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>On Drugs at Present</u>
Fergus Falls	State supplied Thorazine, 50 patients Self supplied Thorazine, 90 " State supplied Reserpine 200 "
	Patients that could be tried, 900 Patients without medication, 560
	Patients on experiment with Thorazine, 66 *
	<u>Results of treatments:</u>
	1. Less other sedation required 2. Less electroshock therapy being given 3. Disturbed wards are more quiet.

* Supplied by Smith, Kline and French Laboratories.

Hastings State Hospital	
Thorazine	54 patients
Serpasil	15 "
Ritalin	9 "
Phenegren	14 "
Frenquel	29 "
Faribault State	Thorazine 54 (which should be continued)
School and Hospital	102 will have to be cut back if no funds available.

<u>Institution</u>	<u>On Drugs at Present</u>
Cambridge	50 patients could be helped
Anoka	50 patients (improved) 15 patients discharged 50 patients markedly improved for ward care 75% of tranquilizing drugs on Cottage II are supplied by relatives.
Willmar	50 patients (alcoholic program) 25 patients (mentally ill) These 75 patients are on drugs supplied by Smith, Kline and French Laboratories. 55 patients on drugs State supplied. Would like to have 125 more patients on drugs.
St. Peter	70 patients on treatment
Sandstone	20 patients on treatment. (3 discharged).
Moose Lake	160 patients on Thorazine (supplied by French, Kline and Smith). 65 patients on Serpasil, State supplied.
Rochester	40 patients discharged and are home on drugs supplied by themselves.

i. Blanket Authorization

It was reported that Mr. Hursh at the coming LAC meeting will ask for blanket authorization to exceed the authorized complement of personnel if money is available.

8. Selection of Next Meeting Place and Date.

The next meeting of the superintendents will be held at St. Peter State Hospital October 28, 1955 at 10 a.m. It was decided that the following meeting would be held one day in November at Cambridge State School and Hospital.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.