

*Institution*

November 30, 1960

To: Members of the Board of Directors,  
Minn. Assoc. for Retarded Children

From: Gerald F. Walsh  
Executive Director

Attached is a memorandum concerning budget hearings for institutions for the retarded. This was held November 23 at the State Capitol. The Executive Director attended. These notes are being forwarded to you because they will relate to further discussion of our legislative program at our next Board Meeting, December 10.

Special points in this memorandum relate to increase of the food budget from 63¢ to 65¢ per day per patient, personnel requests for the state institutions, and requests regarding research and training.

GFW:mk

BUDGET HEARINGS, NOVEMBER 23, 1960, FOR INSTITUTIONS FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

BRAINERD STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL

Harold Peterson, Administrator

Mr. Peterson said that Brainerd is running behind the other institutions for the retarded regarding taking people off the waiting list for their region. He said that they have more severely retarded who need more care than they previously had.

He said he feels that their request for additional aid is rather skimpy.

He said that certainly he does not intend that Brainerd shall be only a custodial institution, that there is a need to develop a therapeutic program as far as possible and that the institution will need the people requested because they will be spread out over the entire institution much more than if they had a single patient activity building.

Harold Peterson reported that he feels that the mentally retarded are much harder and more difficult to care for than the mentally ill and referred to a conversation he had had with a Psych. Aid II that worked with the mentally ill at Rochester for 32 years.

Harold Peterson said that he thinks the institutions for the mentally retarded have been put down at the bottom of the ladder for no good reason.

He said that when the other buildings are opened they will have a complete general hospital on the institution grounds and the lowest ratio he knows of for the general hospitals he knows of for the retarded is 1.87 employees per patient. They are requesting 281 more positions for the next biennium.

Dr. Vail at this point expressed two aims he felt he had for all institutions for mentally ill and for the retarded; that is, that they become fully accredited in two years and open hospitals in two years.

Dr. Vail said that he would like to base personnel for the institutions for the retarded on Cambridge and bring all others up to Cambridge personnel level. This would be about one employee to 3.3 patients. He said that it is left to each individual superintendent which positions he wants. Dr. Vail said that if they used the same standards for personnel for the mentally retarded as for the mentally ill the requests for personnel for the mentally retarded would be much higher.

Brainerd now has 1149 employees.

CAMBRIDGE STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL

DR. GAYLAND ADKINS, SUPT.

Dr. Adkins explained that historically Cambridge had handled the epileptics and that the mentally retarded have filtered in and in the last five or six years the retarded have flooded in. Cambridge has more than doubled in size and they have worked through many problems of enlarging the institution and the program. He said they are making progress and it is his aim to see this institution as the very best possible diagnostic and treatment center. He said the basic goals of Cambridge are good nursing care, rehabilitation program (he would prefer to call it development program). He said that in their rehabilitation program they are reaching about 25% of the institution population.

He said he feels that civil service should reclassify their EEG technicians so that he could be employed at a higher rate because he could earn more as a janitor at the institution than as an EEG technician.

Regarding the role of aides, Dr. Adkins said that they were doing many jobs for which they had not been trained and that he would like to have more custodial dietary positions rather than more aides.

Dr. Adkins said that he would like to see the discontinuation of their farm operation. They have 360 acres of which about 77 are under cultivation. He said that when a farm proves to be not profitable and not therapeutic it should be discontinued.

Gov. Andersen asked what the reception is to their new program (their rehabilitation program). Adkins replied that nothing specific had been found on this, no good positive results to go on as yet. They are not doing anything yet which is notably remarkable. However, they are following with this program national and international trends.

Gov. Andersen asked how many of the increased complement asked for would be for the rehabilitation program. Adkins replied that it was seven teachers.

It was asked what proportion of the population at Cambridge is considered to be educable. They had 360 in special education, 120 in physical education, 200 trainable, who should have school experience. He said there were 100 patients in need of vocational and pre-vocational training.

It was asked of Dr. Vail if open hospitals is the goal for all hospitals for the mentally retarded. Is there an objection to confining all hyper-active patients to one building. Dr. Vail replied that it would be best, he felt, to sprinkle difficult patients around the institution and he would rather see the hyperactives placed around the institution because this would tend to bring up their behavior level. If they were confined to one building, Dr. Vail said, it would be going backwards. Gov. Andersen asked if there were more adequate facilities in the home community, could some of these hyper-active patients be in the home community if there were more auxiliary help. Dr. Vail said that they could take in some patients for a while and help them resolve the problems and then release them to the community again. Morris Hursh said that the idea of who should be in institutions has changed.

Frances Coakley outlined some of the objectives of the Section on Mental Deficiency. They are: public education, professional education, prevention, general services, research, and legislative planning. She said they have a consultant on community organizations working with the Department of Education and that more work was being done by all departments together. She said the special classes in the community have increased from 367 to 467 for the educable and from 36 to 50 classes for the trainable during this past year. She said that this past year the section has concentrated on much more critical evaluation and the institutions have been critically reviewing their population to get more movement back into the community. They are trying to pull together institutions and community programs.

She said there are 290 children in private care facilities and there are 16 private care group facilities in the state and they are trying to raise the standards here. There are 438 children in foster boarding homes. They received 84,000 days of care this past year, and there are 924 on the waiting list at this time. She said they have put emphasis on re-evaluation.

Governor Andersen asked "Do families like to keep children at home?". It was replied that the parents want to be able to place children in the institutions when this service is needed.

Morris Hursh stated that five years ago 15% to 20% of the space offered was rejected and now this is up to 33% rejection of space. This is a reflection of more community services.

Dr. Vail said that he still wants to obtain a director of services for the retarded. He wants to keep this position open. This person would be able to work more closely on the waiting list problem and evaluate the waiting list and get patients out.

## FARIBAULT STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL

Dr. E. J. Engberg, Supt.

Dr. Engberg discussed the staffing needs of the Faribault State School and Hospital. He said that Faribault has an average population of 3,200 and that there were 109 other patients at Lake Owasso, which is an annex of Faribault. He said that there is a change in the type of population at Faribault and said that 175 patients have been transferred to Brainerd, others to Cambridge. About half of those transferred had been the best working patients. He said to make replacements in their institution they have taken from the waiting list children who are younger and much more helpless than those who were sent out. Dr. Engberg said he marvels that some of these patients could have been cared for at home as long as they had. A few, he said, not many, may not have needed institutional care. He said that in the 1959 legislature they had received 29 additional positions and that they are asking for 175 new positions at this session of the legislature. All of these would be at the main institution except for 1 for Lake Owasso. He said that by July 1, Owasso will have increased from 109 to 130 patients, because they have enclosed porches making this space available for year round use.

Dr. Engberg said they are asking for 18 additional positions in the laundry because Faribault will also in the future do laundry for Owatonna, The Braille and The Deaf. These others won't have their own laundries.

He said they are asking for five more teachers and that they now have 200 in their school program for trainables.

They are also asking for additional personnel to bring their level to that of Cambridge. He said he feels that staffing should be the same for all institutions for the retarded.

At this point, Morris Hursh said that the Minnesota ARC had worked hard for additional positions at Faribault last session of the legislature and that 29 were given for Faribault and taken away from Cambridge. He realized that this was not the intent of the association.

Mr. Krave, the business administrator of Faribault, presented additional information on the Faribault Institution budget. He said their budget was not padded in any way. Gov. Andersen said that Faribault had a good reputation for not padding their budget.

Krave said that they built the budget from the bottom up. He said that they had a problem on fuel and that they use gas, with a fuel oil standby. This past year they have needed to ask for \$28,000 to meet the fuel deficiency. They have asked for what is needed in fuel.

The Faribault State School and Hospital is asking for a 65¢ per day food allowance, the same as all institutions.

Faribault is asking for an increase in clothing budget so that their patients can dress the same as normal citizens.

He said that they are including in their budget \$11,000 for services for the central IBM service. They are asking for a 19% increase in laundry supplies and some increase in funds for communications, since the switchboard at Faribault State School and Hospital serves the Blind and the Deaf also.

Hursh said that they are asking that the contingent fund for institutions be increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000 for the biennium. He said that they now have their budget surplus back.

OWATONNA STATE SCHOOL

C. M. Henderson, Superintendent

Mr. Foss, Business Manager of the Owatonna State School, reported that they were short in money for clothing during the last session. They are also asking for a \$10,500 increase for food, which would give them 65¢ per patient per day.

C. M. Henderson said there are several things that are different in Owatonna. One is that they try to tie in with the overall state special education program and that 159 teachers took special training at Owatonna last year. He said they are working with the Vocational Rehabilitation Dept. of the state, which has given them a rehabilitation counselor. They are also trying to expand research.

In the area of current expenses, he said that the items that stand out are the science and educational supplies, clothing (last year they only had \$19 per child for clothing for a year).

He said that he is asking for one new service; that is, a person to be volunteer coordinator, or some other title, who would work with the kids, helping them to learn what they will do with their spare time. He said that one of the great difficulties with the kids at Owatonna is that they don't know how to use their spare time when they are released from the institution.

He said they are making additional requests in the area of house parents because at the present time house parents are required to sleep over-night and be on call. They are not paid for this. House parent II's are on duty when children are not in school on a split shift. They are asking for what amounts to a half additional person for each cottage. He said he wants to increase his night watch because there are one or two cottages where there are no people on duty at night but the night watch checks these buildings every twenty minutes or half hour.

Dr. Vail said that Owatonna had lost 8 positions at the last legislative session. Mac Henderson corrected him on this and said that they had not lost any positions but a while back they had given up the babies they had in one cottage and also the positions to Cambridge because the patients were transferred there.

Mac Henderson said that Dr. Vail and Frances Coakley are providing us with some real dynamic leadership now.

SHAKOPEE HOME FOR CHILDREN

Frances Coakley reported on the Shakopee Home for Children. She said that the program for retarded was opened there in 1951. There are now 31 girls, ages 4 to 12 in the trainable level. She said there is no budget request change here. The staff is still ten, with ten people from the prison helping. Dr. Vail said that this group at Shakopee constituted a problem because he felt that these patients were the type that don't belong in the institution now and it may be that there is some other use for this space. It was reported that the monthly care for all institutions for the retarded was \$110.00; Lake Owasso, \$160.00; and Shakopee, \$180.00 per month.



RESEARCH -- DR. VAIL

Dr. Vail said that they are requesting \$150,000 per year for the next biennium, or a total of \$300,000 for research. He said they have included in the mental health research budget some money for research at the state prison. He said he would like to get a director of research on training who would be under the medical director. He would like each institution to have its own research chief and then consultants in various special areas.

He said the training budget was handled by him and that this had gone down to \$90,000 for this past year the biennium, compared with \$105,000 previously.

DR. DORKEN

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Dr. Dorken reported on the community mental health centers. He said there are nine categories of service that mental health centers should offer. These are not all offered in each center. He said the program was community oriented to serve as a focus point for mental health activities in various communities. They attempt to work with people at early stages. He said they give information, educational and consultive services to courts, schools, etc. They help schools work with problems. The budget request for the mental health centers is \$2,173,000 for the next biennium, and they hope to expand the number of centers.