

DATE Oct. 3, 1960

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT: Faribault State School and Hosp.

Office Memorandum

TO Dr. E. J. Engberg, Superintendent

FROM Rev. B. Streufert, Chaplain

SUBJECT: Chaplaincy Services for the Profoundly Retarded

The parents or relatives of our profoundly retarded often show a real concern that in addition to medical and custodial care, pastoral ministrations consistent with their church affiliation might be made available for their child or relative.

Our resident chaplain has been charged with this responsibility. The patient is seen by the chaplain, their church affiliation noted, and the family notified of the availability of chaplaincy services. Relatives often seek out the chaplain as they work through their problem, consider institutionalization or are re-evaluating it, or are perhaps beset with guilt feelings and are looking for reassurance.

Wherever possible and feasible, the patient is included in a habit type of training, such as folding of hands, saying of prayers, and singing of hymns.

In the event of illness, the resident chaplain is immediately notified. What comfort it affords the relatives to know that a pastor, priest, or rabbi—consistent with their religious faith—has concerned himself with the spiritual needs of their loved one. The chaplain informs the relatives when their loved one passes away and advises them as to funeral procedures.