

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

1961 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

1. We recommend that the staffing at institutions for the retarded be increased to a minimum number required to do an adequate job, and support the following personnel requests: Brainerd State School and Hospital, 132; Cambridge State School and Hospital, 68; Faribault State School and Hospital, 175; Owatonna State School, 10; (a total of 385 additional staff for all institutions).
 - * A. Interim Commission recommends adequate personnel
 - B. Minnesota ARC studies 1957-59
 - C. Task Force
 - D. Institution requests
2. We recommend that money be appropriated by the legislature for an architectural and engineering study to determine building needs and future development of the Faribault State School and Hospital. Further, we recommend that an adequate amount of money be appropriated for a study to determine ways of improving food handling, preparation and distribution at the Faribault State School and Hospital.
 - A. Institution request
 - B. Minn. ARC studies 1957-59
 - C. Task Force
 - D. Interim Commission
3. We recommend that the legislature increase salaries of certain groups of professional employees both within the institutions, state department of welfare, and department of education to an adequate level to attract and hold qualified personnel and to be competitive with city and county departments and private industry.
 - A. Department of Welfare
 - B. Interim Commission
 - C. Task Force
4. We recommend that the experimental plan for regional coordinators of special education being proposed by the department of education be passed by the legislature (to further develop the special education program throughout the state, especially in rural areas).
 - A. Department of Education
 - B. Dr. Maynard Reynolds, University of Minnesota
 - C. Minnesota Council for Special Education
 - D. Interim Commission
5. We support the plan of the Commissioner of Welfare for state subsidy to counties for care of retarded in community residential facilities, in order to give proper and adequate care to mentally retarded residing in the community and to make it possible for counties and parents to afford the necessary service.
 - A. Interim Commission
 - B. Department of Welfare
 - C. Advisory Board on Handicapped & Gifted
 - D. The Trainable Child in Minnesota" - 1958

1961 Legislative Program - 2

6. We support the recommendation of the Commissioner of Welfare that the state give subsidy to counties to enable them to employ additional social workers to serve the mentally retarded, because the mentally retarded need supervision before they are placed in institutions and when they are released from institutions and also if they never reside in an institution. We recognize that there is not now an adequate number of social workers at the county level to handle this job.

- A. Interim Commission
- B. Minnesota Council of Social Workers
- C. Department of Welfare

7. We wish to draw to the attention of the legislature the need for improving diagnostic facilities to determine mental retardation and wish to point out that improving staffing within state institutions might make it possible in the future for the state institutions to give diagnostic service to wards of the commissioner not in residence at state institutions.

- A. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children
- B. Interim Commission
- C. Department of Welfare

8. We recommend that the state legislature appropriate \$70,000 for the biennium for a pilot program of community day centers in Minnesota, these to serve pre-school, school and post-school age mentally retarded. Most of the mentally retarded will always reside in the community and there is a need for expansion of community facilities to serve those mentally retarded not able to benefit from a school program.

- A. Interim Commission
- B. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children

9. We recommend that the legislature appoint an interim commission dealing solely with the mentally retarded to consider the following items: Needed research, a new census law, future services to be given by the institutions, expansion of community programs, education and training, meeting health needs and better coordination of all state services and facilities. It has been evident that the interim commission on handicapped, gifted and mentally retarded has made a very real contribution towards solving problems in these three areas. There is need for continued study of the development of the program for the mentally retarded.

- A. Interim Commission
- B. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children

10. We urge that money be appropriated for construction of the school department and rehabilitation therapy building at the Brainerd State School and Hospital and appropriations for eight patient buildings (90 beds each), tunnels, and play area at the Brainerd State School and Hospital during the next two year. It is important to have complete facilities at each of our institutions for the mentally retarded.

- A. Interim Commission
- B. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children
- C. Task Force

1961 Legislative Program - 3

11. We feel it is urgent that money be appropriated by the 1961 legislature for construction of two new male patient buildings at the Faribault State School and Hospital, because of the changing population at the Faribault State School and Hospital resulting from the transfer of many older working patients to Brainerd and replacing these with young high-care children from the waiting list and because the present older buildings which housed the transferred patients are completely inadequate for these children.

- A. Task Force
- B. Interim Commission
- C. Department of Welfare

12. There has been study during the past interim of the need for an additional institution to serve the retarded. We recommend that the study be continued and that a Range institution be given consideration.

- A. Legislative Research Committee, Sub-Committee
- B. Dr. David Vail
- C. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children

13. The Minnesota Association for Retarded Children recognizee the need to continue construction and improvement of all the institutions for the mentally retarded in the State of Minnesota. We therefore urge the legislature to consider carefully the building needs of Cambridge, Faribault, Brainerd, and Owatonna State Schools and Hospitals.

14. We urge that the medical division of the department of welfare be authorized to employ a person with proper medical and institutional abilities to direct all phases of the total state program for the mentally retarded,

- A. Dr. David Vail
- B. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children

15. We support a request to increase to 65 cents per day per patient for food.

- A. Department of Public Welfare
- B. Minnesota Association for Retarded Children
- C. Hospital Superintendents

* Indicates groups or individuals recommending this item.

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN
2742 HENNEPIN AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS 8, MINNESOTA