

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

1962 Preliminary Governmental Affairs Program

INSTITUTIONS

1. We recommend that, as a vitally necessary step towards bringing the three major institutions for the mentally retarded up to an adequate level of "colony" type care, each of them be authorized enough additional positions at a minimum to bring its overall staff-patient ratio to the U.S. average level of 1:3.2.
2. We recommend that fifteen additional positions requested by Cambridge State School and Hospital for its experimental intensive therapy unit be granted.
3. It is recommended that priority consideration be given to the construction of a new Food Service and Handling Building at Faribault State School and Hospital
4. Minnesota should go beyond the colony level of care which meets the needs of only 15% of the patients, and the Governor and the legislature should carefully appraise Dr. Bartman's plans and support them to the fullest extent possible.
5. It is recommended that the Owatonna State School be authorized 33 new staff positions in 1963.
6. It is recommended that all receipts from charges to individuals, guardians, and relatives of the mentally retarded be dedicated to a research and development fund.
7. The Rehabilitation-Therapies Building at the Brainerd State School and Hospital should be authorized at the 1963 legislative session.
8. Two additional dormitories should be authorized for Faribault State School and Hospital to replace old buildings.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. We recommend that the Department of Education be authorized permanently to employ four additional consultants in special education. These consultants should be placed in outlying communities of the state and be given regional responsibilities to assist in the development and supervision of school programs for handicapped children (including the retarded) in small school districts.
2. We recommend that the present statutes 124.32 and 124.33, pertaining to education of the handicapped, be amended to provide state reimbursement for essential personnel in special education programs at a level of two thirds salary without limitations.
3. We recommend that appropriation requests of the several state colleges and the University of Minnesota, as they pertain to training programs for teachers of the mentally retarded, be given favorable consideration.

4. We recommend that the Division of Special Education and Rehabilitation of the State Department of Education be authorized and funded to employ a special consultant who has professional background in both special education and rehabilitation fields to provide leadership in the development of school-work programs for educable retarded youth.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

1. We recommend that appropriations for state matching funds for day activities centers be increased to \$215,000 for the 1963-65 biennium and that an enabling law be adopted to include the following:
 - a. Advance payments rather than reimbursements by the state for expenses in operating day activities centers.
 - b. Allow parent fees as a source of local funds to be matched by the state.
 - c. The Department of Public Welfare should be authorized and funded to employ a special consultant to day activities centers.
2. We endorse the Department of Welfare recommendation that the legislature appropriate funds for reimbursement to counties of up to 50% of the cost of boarding care for mentally retarded wards of the State Commissioner of Public Welfare.
3. We endorse the Department of Welfare request for funds to initiate a demonstration project on sheltered living facilities in the community for older retarded persons.
4. We endorse the Department of Health recommendation that, to encourage public health nursing services in all parts of the state, the state aid for public health nurses be increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

1. We recommend that the staff complement of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation be substantially increased, with a view toward increasing services to the mentally retarded.
2. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation should prepare a plan and specific proposal for development and partial support of community sheltered workshops by the State Government through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. It is appropriate that development of such facilities be a cooperative venture by state and local agencies. Supports by the state should include grants for a period of initial development and operation of approved facilities plus continuing aid through "Fees for Service" provided to mentally retarded individuals.

OTHER

1. We suggest that the legislature formally recognize the magnitude of the problem of mental retardation and adopt a long range program with the goal of providing care, training, and community facilities at the level of other progressive states.
2. It is recommended that a Legislative Interim Commission and/or a Governor's Advisory Committee be established to study and make recommendations concerning programs for the mentally retarded.