

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC,

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1963

MINUTES

The Governmental Affairs Steering Committee of the Minnesota Association for Retarded Children met Wednesday, October 30, 1963, 8; 00 p.m. in the Minnesota ARC office. Present were:

Robert L. Jensen, Chairman, Minneapolis ARC
Melvin D. Heckt, President, Minnesota ARC
William Sorem, Minneapolis ARC
Harold Johnson, Kanabec-Pine ARC
Mrs. Molly Woehrlin, Rice County ARC
Dr. R.H. Ferguson, Olmsted County ARC
Gerald Welsh, Executive Director, Minnesota ARC

Bob Jensen opened the meeting and called on Mel Heckt, President of the Minnesota ARC, for remarks. Mel said that the Governmental Affairs Committee is probably the most important committee of the Association at this time and that most retarded are served in some way through legislation and state government. He said that this is a very opportune time to make legislative advances for the retarded in view of the federal and state emphasis on this problem. We must be prepared to make much greater efforts than have been made in the past. He urged complete and thorough organization to enable us to bring our governmental affairs program to the legislators and the public.

Mr. Jensen called on Jerry Walsh, Executive Director of the Minnesota ARC, to report on the 1963 legislation that passed and the legislation that failed. A copy of this material is attached for new members of the Committee.

Bill Sorem, chairman of the Minneapolis ARC's Governmental Affairs Committee, reported that they had organized Hennepin County on a district basis to enable them to disseminate information to legislators about the program.

Walsh reported that he had discussed with Commissioner of Welfare Morris Hursh plans for our Committee to meet with the Dept. of Welfare people prior to the time that their budget is drawn up. This would be within the next four or five months.

It was suggested that we contact the National Association for Retarded Children for any information available regarding other states' legislation which is pending or has passed.

There was a discussion regarding federal legislation and it was felt that we need to study Federal legislation thoroughly and understand all aspects of it so we can take best advantage of it here in Minnesota. It was decided that a letter will be written to all chapters who have already named a governmental affairs chairman, urging them to contact legislators early to be

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sure they are aware of our program and, also, have legislators speak to their Associations this year and early in 1964. Chapters who have not yet named a Governmental Affairs Chairman will be contacted by letter by the Chairman of the State Governmental Affairs Committee, urging them to do so, In addition, the Regional Chairmen will be urged to ask the Associations to make sure they have a strong Governmental Affairs Chairman.

It was decided that our general program should be developed by the time of the State ARC Convention, June 5 and 6, 1964.

The next meeting of the steering Committee was set for November 20, 8:00 p.m. at which time Ed LaCrosse, Consultant on Education of National Association for Retarded Children, will meet with the Committee.

It was decided to form sub-committees on special education, institutions, welfare, community services and Federal legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. F. Walsh".

Gerald F.
Walsh Acting

Respectfully submitted,

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

SUGGESTED AREAS OF STUDY FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

1. Special Education

- a. Trainable classes
- b. State aids
- c. More consultants
- d. State aids, essential personnel

2. Institutions

- a. Staffing
- b. Buildings
- c. Program
- d. Size of institutions

3. Welfare.

- a. Guardianship Law
- b. Division on Mental Retardation
- c. Boarding homes, State funds
- d. Charges

4. Community Services

- a. Day Activity Centers
- b. Sheltered Workshops
- c. Sheltered Living Units

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

1963 GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STEERING COMMITTEE

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