



STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

December 17, 1965

TO: Chairman, County Welfare Board  
Attention: Welfare Director

SUBJECT: Federal Refusal to Participate in Medical Assistance  
for Patients in Institutions for Mentally Retarded and Epileptic

We have just been informed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare that it will not participate in Medical Assistance to people over 65 years of age residing in institutions for the mentally retarded and epileptic.

We plan to discuss this problem further with federal officials. For the present, however, you should not approve either maintenance assistance or medical assistance for any applicant while he is a patient in Cambridge State School and Hospital, Brainerd State School and Hospital, or Faribault State School and Hospital.

Very truly yours,

*Morris Hursh*  
Morris Hursh  
Commissioner

ADMISSIONS TO STATE SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS  
FOR MENTALLY RETARDED AND EPILEPTIC.

This bulletin supplements that on "Policies of the Department of Public Welfare on Mental Retardation".

Effective October 1, 1965, every request for admission to a state school and hospital for the mentally retarded shall be made by the county welfare agency directly to the state school and hospital serving that county. A copy of the request shall be sent to the State Agency's Section on Mental Deficiency and Epilepsy to enable the Section to make certain that necessary legal papers are on file at the institution.

Requests for placement at the Owatonna State School shall be sent directly to that institution with a copy to the Section. Should the Owatonna State School determine that its facility is inappropriate but that another state residential facility should be considered, Owatonna State School shall contact the other facility, request its consideration of the request for placement, and notify the county welfare agency of the decision reached about institutional placement.

There shall be no direct admissions to the Shakopee Home for Children. Placements at that facility shall be by transfer from the Faribault State School and Hospital.

In the request for placement, the county welfare agency shall present the problem; the comprehensive evaluation of the problem, including evaluation of the retardate and his family; aspects of community attitudes or resources that are pertinent to the problem presented; training and treatment plans formulated; resource's to be utilized; and agency plans for progress review and evaluation.

Social histories on those being considered for guardianship as mentally deficient or epileptic shall be sent to the Section on Mental Deficiency and Epilepsy at least ten days in advance of any court action. This serves as an important check-point in evaluating the necessity for guardianship.

Because the retarded differ greatly one from another and because our state residential facilities are attempting to meet individual needs, the state schools and hospitals have established six program groups. Each program is being administered by a clinical team. I am attaching for your information a brief description of each of these six programs.

We are confident that county welfare agencies will continue to request institutional placements only when they are the most appropriate resource for the individuals involved.

Morris Hursh  
Commissioner

**Distribution to :**

**Local ARC Residential Care Chairmen  
State ARC Board of Directors**