

66-CVR-DJR
State Inst. Gen

Administrator

W. M. C. K.

Mr. Blouin, Dr. Smith,
Psychology, Soc. Science,
Adm. Dept.

Department of Public Welfare
Department of Education

State of Minnesota
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Medical Directors, Administrators and Rehab Therapy Directors
Medical Services Division Institutions for the
Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation District Supervisors,
Administrative Staff and Counselors for the
Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded

FROM: David J. Vail, M.D., Medical Director DATE: December 20, 1966
Medical Services Division
Department of Public Welfare

August W. Gehrke, Assistant Commissioner for
Rehabilitation and Special Education
Department of Education

RE : Cooperative Vocational Rehabilitation Program -- Memo No. One

Both the Medical Services Division and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation are interested in improving vocational rehabilitation services to mentally ill and mentally retarded persons in our state. Cooperation and collaboration between both agencies has been excellent for many years. For a number of reasons the time is ripe for acceleration and intensification of cooperative planning and programming.

1. First of all, we have an established pattern of cooperation dating back to the assignment of the first vocational rehabilitation counselor to a state institution in the early 1950's. Since authorization, July 1 of this year, vocational rehabilitation counselors have been assigned to all of the institutions for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded.

Simultaneously, hospital vocational and industrial therapy services have increased the scope of hospital efforts in providing a full range of vocational services. All institutions now have qualified industrial therapists and/or vocational counselors on staff. For these reasons, we are particularly interested in coordinating and improving services between institution vocational-industrial therapy staff and DVR counselor staff.

2. Treatment programs have advanced and improved dramatically in recent years, resulting in shorter hospitalization and more intensive therapy for the patients.

3. It is being recognized more and more that vocational rehabilitation services are an essential part of the process of restoring the mentally ill and mentally retarded to productivity.

4. Additional funds will be available to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation subject to the development of acceptable cooperative programs. This will make more extensive programs possible and feasible in the future.

Discussed at Ex Meeting 1-23-67
DJK

The purpose of this memo, then, is to encourage and lend full support to such cooperative planning and programming for expanded vocational rehabilitation services in state institutions. From a state-wide standpoint, this cooperative planning endeavor has three major objectives:

1. Expanding the scope of vocational rehabilitation services available to the mentally retarded and the mentally ill in state institutions.
2. Increasing the number of mentally ill and mentally retarded actively receiving vocational rehabilitation services.
3. Extending vocational rehabilitation services to those mentally ill and mentally retarded persons presenting such complex and difficult problems that they are not now receiving vocational rehabilitation services.

The following procedures are hereby established in order to implement this cooperative vocational rehabilitation program:

1. Ardo Wrobel of the Medical Services Division and Marvin Spears of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation have been assigned the responsibility of coordinating the development of this program.
2. Necessary guidelines will be developed which will include the conditions for the availability of funds. These guidelines will also include examples of possible cooperative programs.
3. Institution and vocational rehabilitation staff may develop and submit for approval proposals for cooperative vocational rehabilitation programs designed to meet the objectives listed above. These proposals will need to include the identification of matching funds and/or services to be made available by the institution. Mr. Wrobel and Mr. Spears will be available as a consulting team to assist in the development of these plans.
4. Such proposals are subject to the approval of both agencies and the availability of funds.
5. We suggest that a separate file be established on this subject, because there will be a series of memorandums originating from these two divisions.

We are very optimistic about the prospects for cooperative programming and encourage your full support and participation.

cc: Department Heads

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