

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

January 4, 1967

Community Mental Health Programs  
Attention: Board Chairmen  
Program Directors

Minnesota Association for Mental Health  
Attention: Dr. Einar Martinson  
Mr. Frank Farrell

Minnesota Association for Retarded Children

Minnesota State Medical Association  
Attention: Mr. Harold Brunn  
Dr. Walter P. Gardner  
Dr. Charles Sheppard

Community Mental Health Advisory Committee

Mental Health Medical Policy Committee

Medical Services Division Institutions  
Attention: Medical Directors  
Administrators

Civil Service Department  
\* Attention: Mr. John Jackson, Director  
Mr. Edwin Lane  
Mr. Ralph Corey

Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Attention: Mr. A. Gehrke

Task Force

FROM: David J. Vail, M. D.  
Medical Director

SUBJECT: Establishment of Industrial Therapy Enterprise programs

Attached is the copy of the proposed bill to establish Industrial Therapy Enterprise programs at various state institutions for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. These will not be shelter workshops in the usual sense of the word but will rather be "pre-workshops," so to speak, where the emphasis will be on training and inculcation of basic work skills and orientation to achievement and production. At the same time the bill will allow the institutions to set up contracts for small piecework with local

industries in a way which will neither compete with existing commerce nor pose any threat to organized labor, nor should it displace any projects being developed through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; but at the same time it will produce a source of revenue which will be of direct incentive and benefit to the patients.

We envision establishing several of these, modeled after similar programs in Western Europe and elsewhere in the country, including a modest pilot venture at the Hastings State Hospital which has had dramatic results in the past two years. Target groups will be (1) a selected group of patients at the Minnesota Security Hospital who will be generally competent, able-bodied men facing a stay of long duration in a situation which affords little outlet; (2) moderately and severely, even profoundly, retarded adult men and women who have been relatively neglected in existing institution programs; and (3) long-term mentally ill men and women who have become institutionalized. Programs would be modified and tailored to fit these three basic groups.

One of the beauties of this bill is that it can be established with little or no expense to the state through the use of existing "kitties" in the so-called Diversified Labor Funds. Once established, the enterprises will be self-sustaining.

Again, let me repeat that we see no threat here to the interests of organized labor. Consultation with labor at local levels is built into the bill as one of its vital features.

If you need any more information on this measure, please let me know. I hope we will have your help and support.

Many thanks, and best wishes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT  
RELATING TO THE MINNESOTA STATE INSTITUTIONS;  
PROVIDING FOR INDUSTRIAL THERAPY ENTERPRISE  
PROGRAMS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. /VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR PATIENTS; ADMINISTRATION./

Subdivision 1. The Commissioner of public welfare is hereby authorized, within the facilities of state hospitals and institutions for the mentally ill and mentally retarded or epileptic under his exclusive control, to establish and operate industrial therapy enterprise programs for the manufacture, processing and repairing of goods, wares and merchandise for the purpose of providing training, vocational counseling and classroom instruction to enable patients and residents to engage in competitive employment upon discharge.

Subd. 2. Such work activity as authorized by this act shall be for the primary purpose of rehabilitation, training and social restoration of the patients and residents of the institutions referred to in Subdivision 1 and not as a competitive business venture. To accomplish the foregoing purpose, the commissioner of public welfare shall have the power and authority to:

(a) Use the diversified labor fund established by Laws 1945. Chapter 575, Section 19, to purchase equipment and remodel facilities of the institutions referred to in Subdivision 1 to initiate the industrial therapy enterprise programs:

(b) Create an industrial therapy enterprise revolving fund for the purpose of receiving and expending moneys in the operation of the said programs;

(c) Contract with public and private industries for the manufacture, repair or assemblage of work on a standard price index basis;

(d) To use the profits from the operation of the said programs to pay salaries to patients and residents, purchase equipment and supplies and pay other expenses necessary to the operation of the said programs;

(e) To determine by consultation with community business and labor representatives and other such persons and bodies, as he may feel qualified, the nature of the goods and services to be performed by the said programs which are consistent with the greatest opportunity for rehabilitation for the patients and residents and with the best interests of labor, industry and the state;

(f) Enter into cooperative agreements with the State Department of Education in order to utilize available vocational rehabilitation services for the benefit of patients and residents.

(g) Formulate a system of records of accounts which shall at all times indicate the extent of purchases and sales, which shall be open to public inspection.