

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.,

M E M O E A N D U M

December 12, 1968

TO: The Executive Committee  
The Governmental Affairs Steering Committee

FROM: Harvey H. Glommen

SUBJECT: Public Hearing with Governor LeVander  
on Institutional Budgets, December 11, 1968

As you know, some stringent budgeting standards were placed on the institutions in the preparation of the original budgets. At the hearing yesterday, the institutions were given the opportunity to make any exceptions to the Governor that they felt were appropriate. Following is a summary of the exceptions made by several of the people.

1. Faribault State Hospital - Dr. Roger Johnson, Administrator

- a. His initial statement was that the nature of his plant places it in a very serious position. It is not well equipped and designed to handle the type of patients that he now has.
- b. When the institution had 2,700 patients, the staffing shortages were not as severe as they are now since most of the patients they then had were working patients, and the new residents are multiple-handicapped residents.

In staffing, **he** stated that he is understaffed in all categories except two: recreation and dentistry: for example, they need 18 physicians but now have five. One of the major reasons for this problem is that the salaries are at a very low level.

- c. Dr. Johnson's basic requests are as follows:

The special equipment allocation of \$85,000 should be supplemented by an additional \$106,000.

Repairs and replacements budgets of \$98,000 should be supplemented by \$100,000.

He said that there is a need for 411 additional staff positions and that the number of staff positions will remain until the patient load is well below 1,500. He again emphasized the fact that the smaller the population becomes, the more serious are the staffing needs.

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2. Cambridge State Hospital - Mr. John Stocking, Administrator
  - a. Mr. Stocking stated that he had submitted three budgets: one, the preliminary budget; second, what he called his "second" budget; third, the "cut" budget. He requested that \$109,000 be restored to cutbacks in current expenses and that \$222,000 be restored to the special equipment budget. He stated that it has been very difficult for him to have to turn down hundreds of requests for equipment from his staff.
3. Brainerd State Hospital - Mr. Harold Peterson, Administrator
  - a. Mr. Peterson pointed out that his institution which is now approximately ten years old, was initially equipped with \$700,000 worth of furniture but that there is no pattern for depreciation and replacement of this equipment. He requested that such a pattern be established in the institution.
  - b. He requested \$27,000 for the special equipment account. He also requested an increase in the clothing allowance for from \$1.85 per person per month to \$3.04 per person per month.
4. Mr. Hoffman, speaking for all the institutions, asked for the following changes:
  - a. At the present time, the food allowance is 68¢ per day. The budgeted amounts are 70¢ a day for the first year and 71¢ for the second year of the biennium. The administrators recommend that this be "pegged" at 72¢ for the first year and 74¢ for the second. He based this on the fact that a food survey had been made in 1952 and at that time showed that the costs were 65¢ per day. We have not kept pace with the needs, since food costs have increased more than the allowance increases since then.
  - b. He also asked for an amount to be able to pay working patients approximately \$15 to \$20 per month for patients without funds so that they can buy their own things. He requested for all patients a "snack allowance" of 5¢ per patient per day. This request was not at all well received.

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There were a number of other, minor changes but these were the principal items. In a statement afterwards, the Governor said that he thought most of these small requests of the institutions could be met. I don't know what he means by "small requests."

One of the recurring statements made by the Governor concerned itself with the staffing ratios - that the declining population would have a substantially improved impact upon the staffing patterns of the institutions. This, of course, was directly challenged by Dr. Johnson.

After the meeting was over, I talked with the Governor just a little bit and commented that I was very pleased that Dr. Johnson had made his needs known. He stated, "Yes, Faribault does need additional staff," but he didn't think Hastings does. I complimented him on one other statement that he had made, namely, that one of the things we need is a good study of the staffing patterns at the institutions to determine staffing needs. I urged him to follow through on that idea.

The Governor said that he would have to total all the requests before he could give a statement as to which would be approved. He did not seem to be openly hostile to any of the requests from the institutions although he wasn't overly sympathetic. At no time did he say that the requests that had been submitted were not legitimate. We will now have to wait to find out what happens.