

DEPARTMENT Public Welfare, Med. Svcs. Divn.

Office Memorandum

TO Dr. Heinz H. Bruhl, Medical Director
Mr. Harold Gillespie, Administrator
Faribault State Hospital

DATE: August 10, 1970

FROM David J. Vail, M.D.
Director, Medical Services Division

SUBJECT:

Now that I have had a little time to reflect on the visits Miriam and I made to the state hospitals during July, I want to share with you some of my impressions.

I was very impressed with a number of changes which have occurred in the hospitals since my last visits, and am thinking about ways to develop better communication between hospitals so there might be an exchange of information about the new and exciting programs and changes which are taking place.

I found that the meetings with the various staff members, plus the visits to the wards to observe programs, ward conditions and staff-patient relationships, helped me to become better acquainted with each institution in a way which, for me, was very meaningful. The visits also gave me a better understanding of how the hospital's Humane Practices Committee functions, and its relationship to the rest of the hospital staff and programs.

All in all I was very pleased with what we saw and heard. I am hopeful that the feedback that we were able to share with you during our final session with your top administrative staff, will be useful to you.

Will you please express our appreciation to the members of your staff for their frankness in their discussions with us and for their hospitality and acceptance of our visits on the wards.

A very special thanks to each of you for your cooperation in setting up the meeting, and for the freedom you provided us in visiting areas of the hospital and talking to staff.