

**MINNESOTA  
MENTAL HEALTH  
MENTAL RETARDATION**

# **NEWSLETTER**



## **In Memoriam: David J. Vail, M.D. 1926-1971**

David J. Vail, M.D., chief architect of Minnesota's program to humanize its public hospitals, advocate of patient's civil rights, and proponent of community services, died Oct. 21 following a three-month illness.

Dr. Vail, 45, had been director of the Medical Services division for the past 11 years.

During his tenure as medical director, Minnesota was recognized for its "attack on dehumanization" program in the state facilities. The division received national recognition—the bronze achievement award—from the American Psychiatric Association's Hospital and Community Psychiatry Service for this program in 1967.

Dr. Vail actively promoted the revision of state codes governing commitment methods. In 1967, the legislature enacted the Minnesota Hospitalization and Commitment Act defining new admission procedures, patient's civil rights, standards for treatment, and provisions for aftercare services—the first major reform in several decades.

He also instituted the joint administrative system for Minnesota hospitals, dividing responsibilities for operating the facilities between the administrator and medical director.

Other innovations he advanced within the state facilities were the initiation of patient pay programs, providing reimbursement to residents for work in hospital industries; and the adoption of the unit organization with treatment programs designed to meet the specific needs of its residents.

Under his leadership, the hospitals began the transition to multipurpose regional facilities as resources to communities with specialized programs for the psychiatric, retardation and inebriacy disability groups. The plan for decentralizing services is aimed at providing needed treatment services closer to patient's homes and improving utilization of the hospitals.

Dr. Vail's term as head of the state program also resulted in a marked reduction of hospital population accompanied by shortened, more intensive treatment programs for incoming patients; and the expansion of state-supported community services. By 1969, all of the state's 87 counties were served by the area mental health-mental retardation programs. The number of daytime activity centers for

retarded children and adults had increased to 97 this year offering programs to residents in 74 counties.

A prolific writer, Dr. Vail's popular editorials in the *Newsletter* often received national attention, and were an instrument in conveying policies and directions for the state program.

He authored three books: *The British Mental Hospital System* (1965), *Dehumanization and the Institutional Career* (1966), and *Mental Health System in Scandinavia* (1968), issued by Charles C. Thomas-Publisher, Springfield, Ill. A fourth book, *The Attack on Dehumanization*, is expected to be published in October 1972 by the Press of Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.



**David J. Vail, M.D.**

In his statement, Gov. Wendell Anderson said: "I am deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Vail. He was a brilliant and compassionate man who devoted his life to protecting the dignity of the less fortunate among us.

"Restless and impatient in the furtherance of his cause, he provided leadership of great vision and integrity as medical director of the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare. We are fortunate to have had him among us. He will be missed."

Morris Hursh, commissioner, state Welfare Department, commented: "Dr. Vail played a very significant role in changing our state hospitals from places of custody to treatment centers. He was an imaginative, sensitive person, with strong convictions about the necessity to preserve the dignity, and to protect the rights, of our patients."

Terry Sarazin, acting division director, added: "Dave Vail did not die a wealthy man, in terms of the goods of this world. He might have done so, had he chosen to pursue other options that were open to him. Instead, he dedicated his life to public service and to improving the conditions of the downtrodden, disenfranchised, and the residents of state hospitals.

"He will be long remembered, both in Minnesota and throughout the rest of the world, for his leadership in making us concerned about the rights of the 'little people' in society, especially those who have become charges of the public agencies. He spearheaded the attack on dehumanization and he sensitized all of us to the responsibility of public agencies to see to it that people are, in fact,

## From Washington...

The Mental Health of the Child Program reports covering prevention, etiology, diagnosis and treatment, and basic research. Available from National Institute of Mental Health, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Md. 20852.

Project Summaries of Experiments in Mental Health Training Synopses of programs in service, teaching, research and prevention areas. Available from Division of Manpower and Training Programs, NIMH.

Issues in Human Development: An Inventory of Problems, Unfinished Business and Directions for Research Monograph based on a symposium sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Available (\$1.75) from Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The Neighborhood Health Center: An Open Door to Health Pamphlet describing the center's role in relation to the community and the community hospital. Single copies available from Office of Health Affairs, US Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20506.

Mental Retardation Publications of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare Bibliography (publications and periodicals) with subject headings: general, legislation and federal programs, specific handicapping conditions, institutions and home care, detection-diagnosis-treatment, rehabilitation-education-employment, and family. Single copies available from the Secretary's Committee on Mental Retardation, HEW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Beyond Control of the Juvenile Court Reprint of an article in *Juvenile Court Journal* commenting on the court and its effects on youth. Available from Office of Public Information, Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Administration, Social and Rehabilitation Service, HEW, Washington, D.C. 20201.

They Do A Job No One Else Can Do—The Health Educator Aide Program for Improving Environmental Health Conditions in the Inner City. Organization of Community Groups in Support of the Planning Process and Code Enforcement Administration. Identification of Leaders and Their Involvement in the Planning Process Series on community organization techniques published by the Bureau of Community Environmental Management, Environmental Health Service, Public Health Service. Available (35 cents each) from GPO.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance 1971 Listing of programs and services administered by federal agencies. Available \$7.25 from GPO.

## State Licensing Advisory Board Named

A state advisory board to develop regulations, program standards and policies for licensing both public and private residential and day care facilities and services for retarded persons has been appointed by Morris Hursh, commissioner, state Welfare Department.

The panel was created by the 1971 state legislature as part of the law authorizing the commissioner to license the programs.

Named to the board were:

Dale Anderson, Administrator, Trevilla of Robbinsdale home □ Robert Bader, retardation program director, Brainerd State Hospital □ Walter Baldus, vocational rehabilitation counselor, Cedar Valley Rehabilitation Workshop, Austin

Evelyn Carlson, director, Hammer School, Wayzata □ Eunice A. Davis, M.D., medical director, child development section, pediatrics department, St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital □ John Groos, special education director, division of vocational rehabilitation and special education, state Education Department

Charles Johnson, director, social services, Minnesota Valley Social Adaptation Center, St. Peter State Hospital □ Steven B. Katz, M.S.S.A., retardation specialist, Western Mental Health Center, Marshall □ Anthony B. Kist, director, licensing and certification section, state Health Department

Mrs. James Larson, member, state developmental disabilities planning and advisory board, Beltrami □ Roger Leaf, supervisor, adult placement resources unit, Hennepin County Welfare Department, Minneapolis □ Mrs. Toni Lippert, executive director, Residential Services Foundation, St. Paul

Dwight Miller, director, Aitkin County Family Service Agency, Aitkin, representing the Minnesota Association of Welfare Directors □ William Niederloh, director, facilities and long term sheltered workshops, division of vocational rehabilitation and special education, state Education Department □ D. Bill Olson, director, Robert Milton Home, Redwood Falls

Robin Reich, mental retardation planner, Hennepin County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Area Program □ Mrs. Betty Rhode, Duluth and Mrs. David A. Sorenson, Minneapolis, members, Minnesota Association for Retarded Children □ Mrs. Roland Rustad Jr., member, Minneapolis ARC □ Mrs. Norma Ruud, administrator, Willmar Nursing Home

Walter Scherek, assistant fire marshal, state Department of Public Safety □ Sheldon R. Schneider, director, Range Center Inc., Chisholm and president, Association of Residences for Retarded in Minnesota □ James Tackes, executive director, Minnesota ARC □ Robert Tuttle, executive director, St. Paul ARC.

## Dr. Vail

Continued from Page 1

given the respect and resources to which they are entitled when they come into our various systems of care, treatment, and training. This is no small legacy for a man whose life was terminated in the peak of his productive years."

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Vail graduated from Harvard University medical school in 1948 and interned at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, Ill. He took his residency training in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md. from 1949-52, and psychoanalytic training at the Baltimore Psychoanalytic Institute, 1950-55.

He joined the Rosewood Training School, Owings, Md. in 1952 as staff psychiatrist, and served as director of psychiatric training, 1952-55, and clinical director, 1955-56.

Dr. Vail then was appointed director of outpatient services at the New Hampshire State Hospital, Concord, and later became assistant superintendent of the facility.

In 1959, he moved to Minnesota as assistant medical director of the department, and was named medical director the next year.

Dr. Vail held teaching appointments at the Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Minnesota as clinical professor of psychiatry. He was a former director of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Dr. Vail is survived by his widow, Joane; four sons, Derrick, David, Garrett and Michael; three daughters, Belinda, Martha and Sara; his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Derrick Vail, Chicago, Ill.; one brother, Peter, Andover, Mass.; and one sister, Mrs. William (Ann) Roberts, Lake Forest, Ill.

A commemorative fund has been established to assist persons involuntarily committed to public hospitals. Custodian of the David J. Vail Memorial Fund is the Unity Unitarian Church, 732 Holly Ave., St. Paul 55105.

Dr. Vail will be missed by his family, friends and co-workers, but he also will be missed by patients—for he truly was their advocate.

## President Commends Job Training Program

Gordon Stennes, director of the Pine City Area Vocational-Technical School, has received a letter from President Nixon commending the school for its service worker training program. Started three years ago in conjunction with the Cambridge State Hospital, a majority of the students enrolled in the housekeeping, food service and groundskeeping courses have been hospital residents. A feature article on the program appeared in the July 18, 1971 edition of the St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press.

The letter reads:

October 14, 1971

Dear Mr. Stennes:

*It was a pleasure to read a news account of the unique program you have developed to furnish job training for retarded persons. I understand that your program has an enviable record of 80% success in job placement for these individuals. You are providing these people with hope and self-respect, and you are offering many the chance to contribute to society when they otherwise might have required special care throughout their lives.*

*Your work merits the praise of all our fellow citizens. I want you to know of my personal admiration for your splendid humanitarian concern, and this note comes to you with my very best wishes for the years ahead.*

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Nixon

# Around the State...

Tasks Unlimited Inc., a nonprofit voluntary organization, ANOKA has received a \$20,000 grant from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, state Education Department, and a \$2,700 award from the Hennepin County Mental Health-Mental Retardation Area Program for this fiscal year toward support of its community Fairweather lodges for discharged Anoka hospital patients. Three working-living units now are in operation in Minneapolis, offering janitorial-housecleaning services. The two men's business firms are the Janitorial Aces and Blue Star Cleaning Contractors; the women's company is the Master Housecleaners . . . Mrs. Dorothy Berger, director of the Fairweather program at the state hospital and president of Tasks Unlimited, and Phyllis Ranney, psychiatric technician, presented papers on the small-group treatment program during the National Rehabilitation Association conference held in October at Chicago.

**FERGUS FALLS** The hospital's new Youth Achievement Center serving ambulatory retarded children and adolescents was opened Sept. 23. It eventually will serve approximately 70 residents transferred from the Brainerd and Cambridge State Hospitals.

**HASTINGS** Gary Doffing, region 5 director, National Association of Human Services Technologies, has been appointed chairman of the advisory committee for the new "Human Services Generalist" training program at the University of Minnesota. He is a psychiatric technician at the hospital.

**LIVERNE** Earl J. Beatt, executive director, Family and Children's Service, Minneapolis, was key speaker for an open workshop on the "Changing American Family" sponsored by the Southwestern Mental Health Center Oct. 29 at Liverne.

**MARSHALL** Gene L. Hochhalter, MA, recently joined the Western Mental Health Center as a staff psychologist. An alumnus of the University of Montana, he previously was employed by the Missoula (Mont.) Human Resources Department and the Southwestern Minnesota Educational Research and Development Council.

**MOOSE LAKE** The first group of students for the academic term enrolled in the mental health course at the Grand Rapids high school spent the week of Oct. 25 at the hospital. The live-in, work-study program was initiated last year.

**NEW ULM** New personnel at the Sioux Trails Mental Health Center are Roger C. Sweet, PhD, staff psychologist and Boyd Granzow, psychological technician. An alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Sweet recently completed two years' active duty in the army serving as a staff psychologist with the mental health consultation service at the William Beaumont Hospital, Fort Bliss, Tex. Before completing

graduate training in vocational rehabilitation counseling at Mankato State College, Granzow was pastor of the United Church of Christ, New Ulm.

**ROCHESTER** An orientation program for clergy recently assigned to community congregations was held Oct. 14 at the hospital's Religious Activity Center. It included a tour of the campus facilities, and presentations on the chaplaincy department services, involvement of local clergy in prehospital care and referral, inpatient and aftercare programs, and church volunteer activities . . . The hospital was host to the Minnesota Association of Hospital and Medical Librarians' fall workshop Oct. 29. Main speakers were Jack D. Key, librarian and Thomas E. Keys, senior library consultant, Mayo Clinic.

**ST. PAUL** Edward D. Constantine, MSW, has been appointed director of the RSD daytime activity program effective Nov. 1. He will be responsible for administration of the state grant program, licensure and program consultation. An alumnus of the Florida State University graduate school, Constantine previously was a supervisor at the Rice County Welfare Department, Faribault. Other new personnel in the DAC section are Therese Halloran, MSW, and Mrs. Patricia Wilson, MA, consultants. Miss Halloran, formerly employed at the Anoka State Hospital, recently completed the graduate program at St. Louis University. Mrs. Wilson was assistant administrator of the Nor-Haven Home, St. Paul, and prior to that, she was a rehabilitation counselor at the Opportunity Workshop, Minneapolis . . . David C. Hancock, director, MSD inebriacy program office, resigned effective Nov. 15. He now is president of Lynnville Inc., a private alcoholism treatment facility at Jordan, Minn. . . Mrs. Miriam Karlins, director, MSD education and manpower development section, was among six participants in a "Symposium on Volunteers" co-sponsored by the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and the National Association for Retarded Children for the International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped. She spoke on "Volunteers Working Directly with the Retarded" at the session held Oct. 18-22 at Philadelphia, Pa. . . Alice Huston, MSD mental health educator, served on a panel on "Children's Emotional Health" during the Minnesota PTA convention Oct. 25-26 at St. Paul . . . A new statewide directory of alcoholism facilities and services including information-referral centers, detoxification centers, treatment facilities, halfway houses and extended care facilities has been published by the Minnesota Commission on Alcohol Problems. A limited number of copies of *Alcoholism Facilities in the State of Minnesota* are available from the commission at Room 802, Capitol Square Bldg., 550 Cedar St., St. Paul 55101 (telephone: 612/221-3991) . . . A *Directory of Metropolitan Twin City Drug Services* listing education-information-referral, planning-coordination, treatment-rehabilitation agencies and organizations in the seven-county metropolitan area has been published jointly by the Greater Minneapolis Drug Dependency Council and the St. Paul Council on Alcohol Problems and Drug Abuse. Copies are available from Howard Kalmer (telephone: 612/223-4619) at the St. Paul Ramsey Community Mental Health Center, 529 Jackson St., St. Paul 55101 . . . A conference on public information methods for area program directors was held Nov. 4 in Minneapolis, sponsored jointly by the Mental Health Association of Minnesota, Minnesota Association for Retarded Children and the Medical Services division. Speakers were Edwin Neuger, president, Edwin Neuger and Associates, Minneapolis public relations firm; Arch G. Pease, publisher, *Anoka County Union*, Anoka; James Bormann, director of community affairs, WCCO Radio, Minneapolis; Robert P. Provost, executive director, Minnesota Insurance Information Center, Minneapolis; Guy Miles, PhD, director of research, social sciences division, Northstar Research and Development Institute, Minneapolis; Alys Brockway, writer-photographer, Sun Newspapers Inc., Bloomington; A. Zach Hirsch, director, support services, Viking Council, Boy Scouts of America, Minneapolis; Ann Zaleski, public information director, MHAM and Judy Westendorf, public information director, MARC.

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## newsletter

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TERRY SARAZIN, ACSW, MSD Acting Director  
ARDO M. WROBEL, RSD Acting Director  
MRS. MIRIAM KARLINS, Section Director  
JO ANNE HAAS, Editor

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## Around the State....

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A public open house-tour was held Oct. 31 at the Minnesota Valley Social Adaptation Center, a separate unit for retarded residents on the hospital campus, with Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich as guest speaker.

Hjvars J. Nagobads, SOUTH ST. PAUL MD, medical director, Dakota County Mental Health Center, has been promoted to clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Minnesota medical school.

Range Mental Health Center VIRGINIA has established eight "walk in" centers in its area, in cooperation with outreach workers employed by the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (OEO). The centers are located at Aurora, Babbitt, Buhl, Chisholm, Cook, Ely, Hibbing and Virginia.

Diane Frank, MA, has joined WILLMAR the staff of the West Central Mental Health Center as speech and hearing clinician. She is an alumna of the University of Denver ... Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control has renewed its grant to the center's drug referral unit for a second year. The unit has been renamed "The Bridge" to reflect its new focus on problems of youth alienation.

## New Educational Tapes on Retardation Produced

A new series of video tapes on mental retardation now is available to facilities and community groups for nominal fees from the Regional Television Production Center at Moorhead State College, Moorhead 56560.

Production of the 17 staff training-public education tapes was funded by the Minnesota Higher Education Commission. State agencies cooperating in the project were the Brainerd and Hibbing State Junior Colleges; Bemidji and Moorhead State Colleges; Brainerd, Fergus Falls and Moose Lake State Hospitals; and the Brainerd Area Vocational-Technical School. Project directors were Jerry Lovrien, inservice training director, Brainerd hospital and W. Ferron Halvorson, consultant to the Moorhead college television center.

Titles and numbers of the tapes are:

- (1) "What is Mental Retardation?"
- (2) "Biomedical Aspects of Mental Retardation—Part 1: Environmental Factors"

Richard H. Tracy, a Bemidji State College graduate, has been employed as a youth counselor with the project's satellite branch at the Hutchinson Community Hospital's mental health unit ... Lester Johnson, administrator of the state hospital, was elected president of District E, Minnesota Hospital Council, at its October annual meeting ... Eight students are enrolled in the hospital's alcoholism counseling training course which started Sept. 15. The nine-month program is supported by the Division of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIMH.

- (3) "Biomedical Aspects of Mental Retardation—Part 2: Genetic Disorders"
- (4) "Biomedical Aspects of Mental Retardation—Part 3: Chromosomal Disorders"

- (5) "Sociocultural Factors Influencing Mental Retardation"
- (6) "Psychological Problems of the Mentally Retarded"
- (7) "The Retardate as a Developing Person"
- (8) "Behavior Management"
- (9) "The Social World of the Retardate"
- (10) "Education and Training of the Trainable Retarded"

- (11) "Education and Training of the Educable Mentally Retarded"
- (12) "Special Social and Vocational Training Needs of the Severely and Profoundly Retarded"
- (13) "Training and Habilitation of the Adult Retarded"
- (14) "Special Needs of the Physically Disabled Retarded"
- (15) "Community Services Available for the Retarded"
- (16) "Innovations in Community Resources"
- (17) "Careers in Mental Retardation."

## Sarazin Named Acting Director

Terry Sarazin, A.C.S.W., head of the MSD community programs section, has been appointed acting division director by Morris Hursh, commissioner, state Welfare Department.

Mrs. Helen Reardon, assistant section director, is interim supervisor of that office.

The state Mental Health Medical Policy Committee now is in the process of selecting a successor to the late Dr. Vail.



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# NEWSLETTER

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