

Article to appear in "The Round Table"

At this time I would like to update you, as parents, relatives and friends of the Faribault State Hospital, as to the staffing situation here at our facility. In the last four and a half years, since I've been the Chief Executive Officer, the Faribault State Hospital has dropped in, resident population from approximately 1,200 persons to 840 persons. In addition, our state supported positions have fallen from 980 positions to 892 positions. As you can see, at this point in time we have more staff than residents and in effect our staffing ratio has improved considerably in the last four and a half years. However, in terms of where we're at, as it applies to the

Welch vs. Dirkswager court case (or what is sometimes referred to as the Cambridge Case), we need approximately 140 additional staff members to meet that court order.

In 1978 and '77, the Faribault State Hospital was allocated, in addition to the state positions above, 110 federal positions under the C.E.T.A. program. These 110 C.E.T.A. positions were primarily used in the residential areas, our program areas, and a couple of them were used for professional staff positions. In effect, these 110 C.E.T.A. positions enabled the Faribault State Hospital during 1977 and '78 fiscal year to meet the requirements of the court order in the residential areas and our day program areas. We were short, however, in some of the professional areas where we needed staff to back up and aid our direct care staff.

In June of 1978, we lost approximately 100 of our C.E.T.A. positions and during the course of this year will lose the last 10. This loss has had a great impact on our residential services. As many of you know, our residential services were starting to build and more and more of the activities that each of us wants for our residents were starting to happen in the residential areas. Programs were becoming more meaningful, and leisure-time and recreational activities were more plentiful. In the last two months we have seen a change in that particular situation, and we've had to cut back considerably in terms of our staffing in the residential areas. In effect, we had approximately 95 of those C.E.T.A. positions working in direct services in residential areas. With the loss of these 95 C.E.T.A. positions in that area, we have reduced our work force by 20%.

The effect of these additional positions was very good during the time we had them. However, on the other hand the reverse is also true; the loss of them has had a substantial effect on our program. The loss of these positions has reduced our ability to cover all the bases that we were covering in the last year.