

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

February 23, 1977 - Room 225

The meeting of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Institutions was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Gerke. Other members present were:

Senator Elmer Flynn - Vice-Chairman
Senator Mark Etchart
Representative Harry Hansen
Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis

Tom Briggs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, was present, along with John Fitzpatrick and Doug Booker of the Office of Budget and Program Planning.

The subject of this meeting is the DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION PROGRAM ON DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED. Larry Zanto, Director of the Department of Institutions, was invited to this meeting.

It was stated that there are 416 developmentally disabled in the institutions at the present time--285 at Boulder, 71 at Warm Springs and 60 at Galen. The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is committed to the legislature to place between now and the end of this fiscal year about 65 of these developmentally disabled. Of this 65, 35 are from Boulder (mostly children) and 30 from Galen. It will have to be an active program to find adequate placements for these people in that length of time. They will be hard to place. Foster homes will be needed for the children.

Mr. Bill Conyard, Superintendent of Boulder, made a detailed study of patients at Warm Springs as to their transfer possibility. His recommendation is four particular patients should remain at Warm Springs. 12 to go to Galen. 13 are able to be transferred to the community. 13 aged to go to the third floor annex at Galen or nursing homes. 41 to be transferred to Boulder for eventual transfer to the community.

The transfers will begin in March and spread out during the rest of the year.

It is his recommendation that all mentally retarded be at Boulder. If this were to happen, assuming about one-half at Galen could be placed somewhere else, there would be an estimated population of 350 at Boulder. If so, additional funds would be needed for a larger staff.

Mr. Zanto said there are 52 developmentally disabled that are ready to be transferred out, if it is possible to place them. He estimates a population of 333 at Boulder after transfers are done. All developmentally disabled would be out of Galen.

Warm Springs would have the 4 Mr. Conyard recommended stay plus perhaps 13 more.

The Office of Budget and Program Planning supports using Boulder as a training center as a middle step in placements. The transfers into Boulder would have to be in phases as there is space available to not exceed the population maximum at Boulder.

Expansion of Boulder via remodeling or new buildings was discussed briefly. The possibility of modular buildings, which could be sold later as homes, was mentioned as a questionable alternate. An estimate of \$30,000 per modular had been given. They would be certified beds. Mr. Zanto said that detailed figures would be worked up for examination.

There would be 250 certified beds at Boulder if the waiver is granted on the non-ambulatory unit. If not granted, there would be 150. The loss of the waiver would mean loss of \$1.2 million. There would be an estimated population of 333 if SRS meets their commitment.

The Mussigbrod building at Warm Springs was mentioned as a priority for closing. There are 35 patients in it, mostly developmentally disabled. They are included in the 71 figure for transferring to either Boulder, community facilities or if necessary other regions at Warm Springs until transfers could be arranged. The cost of this demolition is included in their long range building request.

The superintendent's home at Boulder was discussed. Doug Booker said this home was remodeled for a group home after Mr. Conyard moved to his new home. It has not been used as a group home since the remodeling and presently a doctor on the staff is living there.

As a summary, the chairman said those developmentally disabled patients at Boulder should be prepared for placement in community facilities where possible. The developmentally disabled patients at Galen and Warm Springs should be moved to Boulder as bed space is available without making expansion necessary.

It is the feeling of the committee that the community programs should not be pushed too fast for expansion and let them operate for a while and see if it is working as well as it is felt it will.

The two new nursing homes at Glendive and Billings were discussed. The bids are let on Glendive project and construction will apparently start soon. It was suggested that perhaps these two facilities should be studied for the best use and decide whether they should be for geriatrics only or to include developmentally disabled.

Apparently the changes necessary for the developmentally disabled to be included in these nursing homes would be minor and the

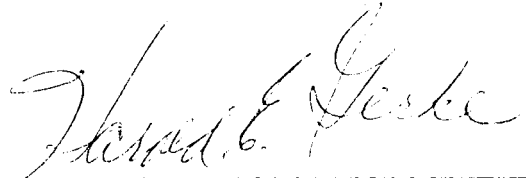
building plans could be changed relatively easily if done soon.

It is thought that the Billings project has not yet been let. The possibility of this nursing home not being needed was discussed.

Representative Bardanouve mentioned the possibility of this committee and the one on SRS having a joint meeting when the budgets are finalized to check for any conflicts in program budgeting or plans and Chairman Gerke agreed it was a good idea.

The suggestion of another committee to close Galen and transfer all treatment of TB to the Department of Health was discussed. It is felt by this committee that this cannot and should not be done.

Meeting ended at 10:00 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harold E. Gerke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Harold Gerke, Chairman