

Our Children's Voice

Retarded Children Can Be Helped!

Vol. XXVII No. 2

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

April 1975

Bill passes Senate 45 to 6

Legislative progress

Most, if not all, of the legislative program for 1975 adopted by the delegates at the State Convention in October has been introduced and is making its way through the legislative process.

These bills include the following:

1. State Schools and services — elimination of parental liability for fees for children under 21 years of age in institutions operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene. (S. 1969-Giuffreda). Attempts to get this introduced by Mr. McCabe of Johnson City, Chairman of the Assembly Committee, have been unsuccessful although he had promised to do so.

2. Community Mental Health Services. (a) provision for reimbursement to communities by the state at the rate of 75 per cent for mental retardation services provided locally, (S. 2395-Pisani). Again promised for introduction by Mr. McCabe but not yet introduced.

(b) provision that rent paid to a mental retardation services company representing the interest paid on the HFA Mortgage for construction be a reimbursable expense item under contracts with community mental health boards. (S. 718-Marino), (A. 723-Margiotta).

(c) provision that only net income realized in the operation of a specific program be deducted from the operating costs to establish a net operating cost (S. 2589-Flynn, A. 3283-McCabe).

(d) provision that community mental health boards must hold public hearings on their proposed programs at least 30 days before submitting them to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene (S. 2393-Pisani). Not yet introduced by Mr. McCabe.

3. Education — (a) amendment to Section 4407 of the Education Law to make it mandatory instead of permissive that children deemed uneducable by school districts be educated by private schools with the state paying \$2500 (S. 402-Conklin, A. 475-D'Amato).

(b) amendment of the Education Law to provide that education of the handicapped

be mandatory from the age of 3 instead of the age of 5 as now (S. 2392-Pisani). Assemblyman Stavisky requested as sponsor in the Assembly, but has not yet introduced.

(c) amendment of the Education Law to permit school districts to transport persons over 21 to and from rehabilitation facilities without state aid (S. 2394-Pisani, S. 121 Giuffreda; A. 4673 Wertz).

4. Other Matters — (a) amendment of the Insurance Law to require all insurance companies and plans to include mentally retarded dependents on family health and hospital policies (S. 2235-Dunne); (S. 3362-Lewis - A. 4268-Silverman).

(b) amendment of the Insurance Law to forbid Insurance companies to refuse life insurance up to an aggregate limit of \$1500 on the life of a mentally retarded on the sole ground of mental retardation (S. 2083-Dunne). Not yet introduced in the Assembly.

S. 1212 introduced by Senator Giuffreda, which is a duplicate of S. 2394, has passed the Senate and is now in the Education Committee of which Mr. Leonard Stavisky is the Chairman

At this writing, March 1st, none of the bills representing the program of the State Association has passed both houses.

In other legislative moves, the bill that last year repealed the whole Education Law dealing with the handicapped and substituted a new bill, was introduced once more by Senator Donovan (s.-12). The Association has the same objections to this bill this year as it had last. It removes entirely Section 4403 giving the parents rights under the Family Court Act and Section 4407 under which almost 8,000 handicapped, who otherwise would have received nothing from boards of education, have been educated.

It is the contention of the Association that the present Education Law can be strengthened by some simple amendments without throwing everything out for which all of us have worked so hard for these many years. RELATED STORIES Page 2

On February 20th, Senate bill 11B, an Act to Amend the Executive Law to establish an Office for Mental Retardation in the Executive Department, passed the Senate by a vote of 45 to 6.

Amended For Inclusions

The bill has been amended to make it clear that the concern of the new Office, separating mental retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene and its concerns for the mentally ill, alcoholics and drug programs, will also concern itself with the cerebral palsied, the brain injured, the epileptic, the autistic, and all other developmental disabilities as defined by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

The debate on the Senate floor was not long. The opposition centered on the criticism that the bill was not specific enough, did not go far enough, did not cover other disabilities enough, and in fact, none of it centered on what the positive aspects were in terms of the mentally retarded.

6 Vote Against Bill

The 6 who voted against the bill were: Senators Fred J. Eckert (R-Monroe County); Carol Bellamy, (D-N.Y. Kings County); James D. Griffin (D-Erie County); Manfred Ohrenstein (D-New York County); Richard E. Schermerhorn (R-Orange-Rockland-Ulster Counties); and Linda Winikow (D-Rockland-Westchester Counties).

The counterpart of the bill has been introduced in the Assembly by Stanley Steingut, Speaker of the Assembly. It is A. 2B.

It is now in the Governmental Operations Committee, the Chairman of

which is Joseph J. Lisa, (D-Queens County).

We received assurances from Speaker Steingut that this bill would be moved to the floor of the Assembly and the hope, of course, is that when it gets there it will pass.

By the time this newspaper reaches our readers, we certainly should know its fate in the Assembly.

This legislation has been introduced a number of times and was passed once in 1972 unanimously in the Senate and with only four dissenting votes in the Assembly, but was vetoed by Governor Rockefeller upon the threat of the then Commissioner Dr. Alan Miller that he would resign if Rockefeller signed the bill.

Kolb States He Won't Oppose

In an interview with Senator Conklin and later with Assemblyman Steingut, the present Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Lawrence Kolb, stated that he would not oppose the bill, but in his testimony before the Mental Hygiene Committee upon confirmation, he stated he thought mental retardation belonged under mental health.

A recent letter from Dr. Howard W. Potter, once President of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and an eminent psychiatrist, long a leader in the field of mental retardation, stated the following:

1. M.R. — M.I. are not one and the same — in fact they have but little in common.
2. The Mental Hygiene of M.R. is not replicated in the Mental Hygiene of M.I. and vice-versa.
3. And above all, the expertise to meet the needs of M.R. and the needs of M.I. are not one and the same.

Carey contradicted

On February 21st, Governor Carey's office denied that he ever made a campaign promise to create a separate state agency to care for the mentally retarded.

He was immediately contradicted by State Senator William T. Conklin, who said he had heard the pledge at a dinner and could obtain affidavits from an audience of 700 parents who had given Mr. Carey a standing ovation on hearing the pledge.

"I'll stake my reputation on it," said the Senator, a Brooklyn Republican whose bill (S. 11B) passed the Senate.

The Governor's office said, that contrary to news reports at the time, he did not promise to support the bill for a separate agency on October 12th when he addressed the annual convention of the State Association.

This statement was made not by the Governor, but through a spokesman, Robert W. Laird, who stated the Governor may have been misunderstood. He recalled waving a pen at the audience of parents of retarded children and promising in general terms that if the Senator "passed the right kind of bills in the Senate, then he (Mr. Carey) could sign those bills into law."

The Senator said there could be no misunderstanding. The bill to separate the retarded from the mental hygiene agency was the burning issue at the Convention and the only topic the Senator had in his speech immediately before Mr. Cary spoke.

(Continued on Page 7)

Earl W. Brydges dies

Earl W. Brydges, former president pro-tem and Republican majority leader of the New York State Senate, died on March 30th, of cancer.

The members of this Association will remember Earl William Brydges, not because he was a powerful political leader, but because he was a warm, understanding and wise human being. He was the first friend the mentally retarded had in the halls of the Legislature.

Long before he became a political leader, he introduced, together with Stanley Steingut, now speaker, dozens of legislative reforms for the retarded, including mandatory education for the trainable.

He was the creator of the Institute for Basic Research for Mental Retardation and the first chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation.

All of us mourn his passing.



EARL W. BRYDGES

The Governor's Budget

"The Theme of the specific recommendations reflects a determination that improvements in program effectiveness do not necessarily follow from constantly increasing resource allocations."

A major objective, therefore, is to consolidate the recent gains made in programs.

For the mentally retarded, new programs emphasize prevention and not institutional programs."

The proposed budget of Governor Carey for the year 1975 - 1976 certainly reflects his statement that there are little increased resource allocations.

Further examination does not reveal, however, that new programs emphasize prevention and not institutional programs.

This budget must be viewed in the light of the fact that of the 580,000 mentally retarded in New York State, only some 22,000 or 23,000 are in institutions; the vast majority are in the community and other programs or are adults without programs.

Viewed in this light, we should examine some of the recommendations made by the Governor. It is important, from our viewpoint, not to emphasize so much the appropriations for the Department of Mental Hygiene, although we will look into this also, but the appropriations being made for the so-called community services not under the Department of Mental Hygiene.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Starting with vocational rehabilitation, the one program that has done the most to emphasize the importance of services to the severely handicapped that is stressed in the new Vocational Rehabilitation Act has been the program to support long-term sheltered employment.

In 1974, there were 2200 clients in such programs. Chapter 1014 of the Laws of 1974, effective January 1, 1975, added mentally ill and physically handicapped to the mentally retarded in this program. Legislature had to vote a \$500,000 deficiency appropriation to accommodate nearly 2000 more of these for the last quarter of the fiscal year.

For 1975-1976, however, to serve from 4200 to 4700 against the 2200 in 1974, the Governor asks for \$4,737,000 or an increase of \$1.5 million.

Thus, in spite of the rising costs of services, cost of living increases and the starvation ration on which this program has been kept, the Governor keeps the

support at the same level of \$1000 per client even although the law permits up to \$1500.

WORKSHOP SUPPORT GRANTS

As to workshop support grants to increase the capacity of workshops to serve more people in 1974-1975, 63 workshops received such grants to serve a total of about 18,500 people. The state's share was \$675,000 against a total cost of \$1.2 million. The Governor recommends \$800,000 or an increase of \$125,000, certainly nothing very dramatic.

Based on the fact that under Chapter 241, Laws of 1974, state aid for education of the handicapped increased by some \$90 million, the Governor then proceeds to cut \$5,600,000 from the 4407 program, reducing it to \$15 million because he says that 1200 pupils (7200 to 6000) will come under contracts with the school boards under Section 4404 2(b) and the Riley-Reid Decision. Those who are in 4407 programs will continue to be aided, but no new ones will be taken in.

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT DISTRICT SUPPORT?

The Governor fails to answer the question and so does the Department of Education. What will happen to a handicapped child when the school district does not wish to enter into such a contract and will not support the service itself? Are we relegated then to the Family Court only, and will the Department of Education approve a Family Court Order? These questions are not answered. Meanwhile, the child may well be without a service.

As for Section 4403, the Court ordered programs, in 1973 - 1974, court orders were for \$10,100,000 gross, \$6,200,000 tuition, \$3,500,000 transportation, and \$400,000 for maintenance. The State's share was \$5,650,000 and the Governor asks for an increase of \$500,000 in this area.

Coming back to the state aid for the handicapped, it is interesting to note that none of this state aid is earmarked for the handicapped in the law and may be used by the local community in any way it sees fit.

So much for the development of educational and vocational rehabilitation service.

Parenthetically, we might mention there is nothing in the budget for the acquisition of property or facilities to house vocational

rehabilitation programs. Nothing to mandate education from age 3. Nothing for education over 21.

Oh yes, to the special schools for the blind and the deaf as opposed to the \$5 million decrease for 4407, the budget is increased by \$1,424,000 to \$17,497,000.

Under Mental Hygiene, the Governor persists in deluding the public into thinking that under Unified Services the State will put up 50 percent of construction costs. This is not so. The law reads 50 percent of the non-federal share. Since the federal share is up to one-third, this means one-half of two-thirds, or one-third as in the law without Unified Services.

ON HOSTELS

Without going into the total budget of the Department of Mental Hygiene, which receives some increase, there are no funds for the acquisition or capital funds for hostels; and continuing authorization for the expansion of half-way houses without any real increases; and an increase of \$420,300 for hostels to meet the contract cost because of the price level increases in hostel, home care and purchase of care services. The Governor projects, that instead of the 675 now to be served in such hostels, it will go up to the astronomical number of 725.

The Governor's budget recommends an increase of \$343,500 in the family care budget, not in the fees paid for family care, but a 15 percent increase in family care caseload up to 4,150.

And, that takes care of community residential alternatives to institutionalization for the mentally retarded.

With regard to institutions, the budget makes a great deal of a \$16,750,000 standby budget increase to meet the requirements of the lawsuit against Willowbrook. Actually, however, \$9.4 million of this is to bring the 10 other institutions up to standards if possible and only \$7,400,000 is for Willowbrook. Nor on close examination is all this hard money.

PERSONNEL INCREASE

An encouraging aspect of the Governor's budget is the increase in personnel for some of these institutions by 2,132,764 to go to the new state schools 138 for Broome, 193 for Brooklyn, 125 for Monroe, 110 for O.D. Heck, 80 for Wilton and 128 for Kings Park. State Schools, on the basis of these increases, will also get back the staff that was transferred to Willowbrook last year.

Under this, Broome State School, now having about 48 residents will have 192, Monroe 192 and O.D. Heck 485 to bring back populations originally from these areas now in other overcrowded state schools, not necessarily for the purpose of keeping them there forever, but as a springboard for placement in the community where possible.

It is to be noted that the budget at Willowbrook is reduced by the elimination of special therapy oriented programs, the elimination of special bus contracts, and the reduction of laundry service by contract.

LOCAL SERVICES

With regard to Local Services, mental illness budget is increased from last year's \$58 million to this year's \$73,768,000 and for Mental Retardation and Children's Services from last year's \$18 million to this year's \$21,087,000. Note, however, that mental retardation is broken down to Mental Retardation and Children's Services, the services under Children's Services, psychiatric services out of the children's psychiatric hospitals. There is no breakdown for mental retardation as such. Nor is there any explanation whether this takes into account the increased cost of existing contracts. A casual estimate of the appropriation for mental retardation must indicate that very few projects are contemplated under this increase. In fact, the budget Message speaks of an increase of this \$4 million for Local Services for Mental Retardation and Children's Services for the purpose of full funding of existing programs. This brief summary of a complicated budget leads us to conclude that the Theme is being carried out — no increased resource allocations.

We do not see, however, how many new programs there are and how they emphasize prevention and non institutional programs in the light of the budget.

Indeed, it is the opinion of a spokesman for this Association that unless there are substantial changes in the budget and increases in the Supplemental, even the existing programs will not be able to continue at the level at which they are now operating.

We should perhaps be thankful, however, that there are no more actual dollar cuts in this budget in the light of the financial position as presented by the Governor.

ARC Task Force Report

The Task Force on Mental Retardation appointed by President Elliott L. Aronin, as a response to Governor Carey's failure to appoint such a task force or include anyone from the field of mental retardation on his Task Force on Mental Health, issued its report to the Governor on December 20th, 1974.

Starting with the statement "Mental Retardation should not be confused with Mental Illness, it is an entirely different condition" the Task Force reviewed the operation of the Department of Mental Hygiene with regard to mental retardation almost since its inception, considered alternatives to what has been done in the past.

These recommendations were:

1. Mental Retardation must be separated from the Department of Mental Hygiene by creation of a separate Office of Mental Retardation in the Executive Department.

2. An immediate implementation of the need for physical facilities in which to

house the services needed for deinstitutionalization and the prevention of institutionalization in the community by the use of Chapter 1033, Laws of 1969 and the issuance of the bonds now authorized but not issued.

3. A concentration on prevention of retardation if we are to reverse the process of institutionalization. This must include all medical, social, education, rehabilitative modalities and not just a "heartless cut-off of intake to the institutions." The Institution for Basic Research will come over to this Office and must be strengthened with personnel that understands such research and not with personnel that has been dismissed from other facilities.

4. Mechanism to coordinate the activities of the various departments having some responsibility in one area or another for the mentally retarded. This mechanism must be created for a continuum of care to supervise and follow through by somebody with authority.

5. A fixed point of responsibility for all services for the mentally retarded must be created. A place where all complaints would go where heads could be knocked together under the strength of the Executive Department to see that the things that have to be done are done.

The report concludes "There must be no fear of change. There must be no fear of change as there was no fear in 1927 when, under Governor Al Smith, the various governmental agencies dealing with mental disabilities were put into one Department of Mental Hygiene. Time has proven it was not the thing to do. The mere fact that it was done does not mean to say we should live with this failure forever."

The appointment of a new Commissioner will solve little. The system will defeat him in this area. The Commissioner is the messenger who must bear the bad news. New shoes, a new face, a new suit, all are paint to cover an inherent systemic defect requiring major surgery."

NARC invades again

The National Association for Retarded Citizens has once more attempted to flood New York State with coin collection devices.

These cannisters, in supermarkets, public buildings and elsewhere, give the impression that the services for the mentally retarded locally in the State of New York would thereby benefit.

The fact is that all this money goes to the National Association in Arlington Texas eventually and none of it remains in this state for the benefit of the mentally retarded.

This move by the National Association comes at a time when the President of the National Association is conferring with the President of the New York State Association towards consideration of reaffiliation on some basis. These conversations have been initiated by National but some doubt must be cast on their intentions by their misleading effort to siphon off funds from the mentally retarded in this state.



S.O.A.R. staff begins program

Surrounding Project Director Jack Bernstein, seated, front left, L. to R. Brenda Clarke, Social Worker, Laurie Simon, Student Intern, Dianah Hedges, Publicity Director, George Heymann, (seated) Assistant Attorney and Dorothy Greenwald, Administrative Assistant.

SOAR, Operation Link-up Regional conferences held

NYSARC's newest project, System of Advocacy for the Retarded (SOAR) in conjunction with Operation Link - Up was recently presented to local chapters of the ARC in a series of regional meetings. Sharing the platform with ARC Operation Link - Up's Tom McCarley, SOAR has made three presentations on its purpose and practices in Rochester, Syracuse and Schenectady. Afternoon sessions at each conference were devoted to small group discussion with conference attendees participating in either SOAR or Link - Up work groups. In addition, SOAR made available to each member of the conference a kit describing advocacy for the retarded containing models and suggestions for local ARC chapter advocacy.

With much assistance from efficient local ARC staff, SOAR and Link - Up were first introduced to local enthusiastic ARC members in Rochester on February 8 by West Regional Vice-President Winifred Rabbitt and Mrs. Gloria Weller, Pres. Monroe County Chapter.

In his opening remarks, SOAR Director Jack Bernstein expressed the need for parent action to make the goal of advocacy for the retarded possible. After introducing his young and energetic staff to the audience, he made clear that SOAR's major thrusts in the area of advocacy are to recruit, train and advise advocates who will safeguard and secure the rights and services of the retarded. When necessary, SOAR will assist local advocacy committees in bringing legal action against those who fail to treat the mentally retarded as equal citizens. In its first year, SOAR will also codify and disseminate the statutes and case laws concerning the retarded in New York State.

The basic format of the Rochester meeting was repeated at two other conferences held in the Central Region on February 15 at Syracuse and at Schenectady on February 22 at the Maple Ridge Center.

At the Schenectady Conference, Schenectady chapter President Carroll F.

Stowell and North East Regional Director John P. Beynart were on hand to introduce SOAR and Operation Link - Up to a lively crowd. Noted authority in the field of mental retardation law, Augustus Jacobs, was on hand to lend his insight to both morning and afternoon sessions.

In addition to holding regional conferences, SOAR is also in the process of creating a training kit to be used by local SOAR advocate groups. This packet will include samples of speeches and radio-TV spots. SOAR stickers and buttons, as well as an MR fact sheet. General tips on how to be an advocate for the mentally retarded, and also specifics on confronting and publicizing situations which demand advocacy to obtain basic rights and services for the mentally retarded will round out this kit.

By the time you read this article a fourth regional meeting will have been held in the Southeast Region at the Westchester Chapter facility in White Plains.

The staff at SOAR welcomes any and all of your inquiries: contact us at 175 Fifth Avenue, Room 1308, New York, New York 1000.

See photos - Page 13

Protective services

Did you know that Chapter 1039, Laws of 1973, requires persons and officials to report cases of suspected child abuse or mal treatment? Such persons include officials, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, podiatrists, registered nurses, hospital personnel, school officials, social workers,

day care center workers, foster care workers, mental health professionals, peace officer or law enforcement official? Do you know, that although the State of New York is probably the largest abuser and maltreater of children in the State, there is no requirement that the abuse or maltreatment of children by the State of New York be reported?

SOAR in formation

To help you become effective advocates, your State Association has obtained a grant for a System of Advocacy for the Retarded (SOAR). The idea for SOAR was conceived by Joseph T. Weingold in 1971. In 1972, Mr. Weingold's thoughts were put into a proposal for a grant which was submitted to the various government agencies. It appeared to be too hot to handle; but, after much effort, it has now been funded by Development Disabilities Council of N. Y. State.

Preliminary work was done by Mr. Weingold and myself in the Fall and Winter of 1974, on a voluntary basis, so that upon the effective date of the grant, January 1, 1975, we would be operational.

We concentrated on recruiting personable, dedicated, energetic and competent staff. Our staff consists of myself as Director and General Counsel; George M. Heymann as Associate Attorney; Richard Gash and Richard Weiss as law assistants; Brenda Clarke as Social Planning Coordinator; Diana Hedges as Publicity Coordinator; Dorothy K. Greenwald as Administrative Assistant, Eileen Abramson as Staff Secretary and Laurie Simon as social work intern on loan from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services.

We are backed up by people knowledgeable in the field such as our Advisory Committee which is in formation. At present the committee consists of: Joel Aurnou, Attorney; Harold Baer, Justice, Supreme Court; Senator Carol Bellamy; Alfred Besunder, Attorney; Hyman Clurfeld, Attorney; Senator William Conklin; Leo Fixler, Attorney; Dr. Margaret Giannini, Director, Mental Retardate Institute, N.Y. Medical College; Robert Hodgson, Attorney; Augustus M. Jacobs, Attorney, Judge Gilbert Ramirez, Family Court; Walter C. Redfield, Attorney; Simon Rosenzweig, Attorney; Murray B. Schneps, Attorney; E. Donald Shapiro, Dean, New York Law School; Robert H. Wagner, Justice Supreme Court; Senator Joseph L. Galiber.

In the immediate future, four parents will be nominated by the chapters to serve on the Advisory Committee. A YOUTH representative will also be nominated.

What is advocacy? It is standing up for rights; it is a questioning of the relationship and the very reason for the existence of policies, rules, regulations and laws which adversely affect you. It is seeking a cause of action, a harm being done to you and alleviating that harm through self and group action, using the

tools of challenge, argumentation, negotiation and legal action. It is the taking of an adversarial stance where you have a right to do so.

You, as advocates, will reflect the rising hopes and aspirations of our mentally retarded children and adults. SOAR gives you a method of action to realize your goals. It provides a runway from which parent power can rise to successfully undertake missions which you, as individuals, might hesitate to attempt. Together, we will hasten the day when the agencies and governmental bodies serving the retarded will look up to you with respect and compassion for your special needs. They will hasten to be a part of a proud and successful system of service delivery... proud and successful, because it will not protect what is, but soar to what can be.

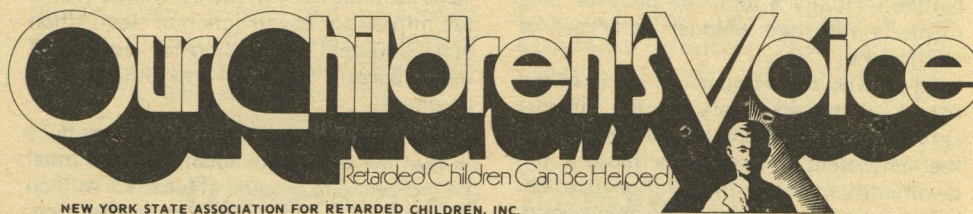
To assist you we have sent questionnaires to every executive director, Board of Governor member and chapter president. We have held regional meetings to explain our program and help you get started. We will visit any area needing help. Advocacy models have been developed and distributed through the chapters. (Additional copies may be obtained by writing to SOAR). We will band together in each chapter a group of dedicated people who, with training as needed, will become effective advocates for the retarded in their community. SOAR will train, organize, provide expert and sound legal and practical advice. However, we look forward to each chapter setting up an advocacy committee to do the following: (See the Kit for details)

1. Provide legal advice and services
2. Recruit volunteers
3. Watchdog activities
4. Provide humanizing services
5. Advocate for more and better services
6. Facilitate community involvement

The help of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association will be solicited in forming committees on mental retardation in each county Bar Association. The statutes, rules and regulations, and case laws will be codified and distributed to parents and professionals. In the second and third years, class actions will be brought to benefit all of you.

If you have any questions or problems which cannot be answered locally, write to SOAR, 175 Fifth Avenue, Room 1308, New York, New York, 10010. We will do our best to be of service to you.

By Jack Bernstein, M.S.W., J.D.



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Jerry Weingold enjoying the exhibit with Ms. Phyllis Arzberger and Mr. Sammy Grill.

Metropolitan reception

This year, the Metropolitan Museum of Art not only exhibited the top entries in our Christmas Card Design Contest, it also opened the exhibition on December 17th by hosting a reception to honor the 1974 winners in the Junior Museum Studio. This was possible through the hard work and coordination of Mrs. Cathy Chance and Mrs. Deloris Wright.

After lunch on the day of the reception, two of the 1974 winning artists, Miss Phyllis Arzberger of Willowbrook, Mr. Sammy Grill of Letchworth Village, were photographed and given a tour of the Museum including a party around the

Renaissance Christmas Tree. They were presented later that evening at the reception attended by members of the Museum Board and The Association for Retarded Children.

Sammy and Phyllis expressed their excitement and appreciation with every new event of "Their Day." Mrs. Chance and Mrs. Wright certainly made every effort to make it memorable.

The exhibition was shown at O.D. Heck, Developmental Center in November.

The 1975 Christmas Card Design Contest will be held sometime in March. We look forward to the exhibition and reception for this year's winners next December.

Alternatives-Task Force reports

After more than a year of deliberation, the Task Force on Alternatives to Institutional Placement for the Mentally Retarded under the chairmanship of Joseph T. Weingold, executive director New York State Association for Retarded Children made its proposals last October to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

The more than 100 recommendations outline virtually a total life plan for the mentally retarded whether in or out of institutions.

One of the most important parts of the report is the emphasis on the support services for those who are released from the institutions as well as for those in the community to prevent institutionalization.

Some of the highlights of the recommendations for the adult are in the field of vocational training and hostels. The Vocational training study indicates a possible need for 100,000 slots for ages 20 to 65 in the foreseeable future. The report recommends the creation, by acquisition or construction, of enough facilities to train an additional 1,000 for the next two years with the use of the \$380 million bonds for construction still not issued under Chapter 1033, Laws of 1969 for this purpose. Cost is estimated at \$7½ million. It further recommends cost of training should be fully funded by the state.

With regard to living arrangements; foster care, family care, family care group homes, voluntary agency group homes,

hostels and half-way houses are recommended. With regard to hostels, the projection is a need for about 10,000 hostels for the future to take care of about 107,000 persons, 5000 in the institutions, in the age group from 20 to 65. The report urges the creation of 200 hostels in the next two years to be acquired, renovated or built by the use of as much of the \$380 million bond issue as noted above. The estimated cost is \$20 million for construction or acquisition and additional \$12 million for support of the program less SSI and other client payment.

One of the important recommendations is that the budget for local services must be increased to provide at least \$30 million earmarked for local service to the mentally retarded based on an ancillary report, "Scope of the Problem." Copies are available from the State Office.

To accomplish the purposes of these many recommendations, there must be a place or agency that has legal responsibility for the lifetime care and treatment of the mentally retarded as needed and a fixed point of referral for the provision of services. The report covers prevention, preschool, school age, the adult and the aged. Whether any of these recommendations will be adopted by the Department of Mental Hygiene is uncertain at this point, but they represent the carefully deliberated opinion of the Task Force as appointed.

Mental Hygiene

Kolb named Head

Dr. Lawrence C. Kolb, Director of New York State Psychiatric Institute (a position held by one of his predecessors, Dr. Paul Hoch) and head of the Psychiatric Service, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, has been appointed Commissioner of Mental Hygiene by Governor Carey.

Dr. Kolb is the former President of the American Psychiatric Association and the author of "Modern Clinical Psychiatry" a standard text in medical schools. Dr. Kolb's connection with the Department of Mental Hygiene has been in research. Not only has he been director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute since 1954, but, in 1966, he was Associate Commissioner for Research for the state agency.

As an administrator, Dr. Kolb directed about 700 employees in the psychiatric institute. The Department of Mental Hygiene has almost 60,000 employees and a vast network of services throughout the state.

In his first official remarks after he was sworn in as Commissioner, Dr. Kolb strongly supported the release of mental patients for rehabilitation in community facilities but stressed the need for aftercare of such patients.

Although he criticized the "insufficient amount of attention that was paid 'to the released patients,'" the 63 year old Commissioner said, that before making any important changes, he wanted to study

reports on the Department prepared by a task force named by Governor Carey. (This task force does not include anyone conversant with the problems of the mentally retarded from the point of view of this Association.)

The Department was criticized sharply last year by legislators, mental health organizations and community leaders for "dumping" thousands of mental patients into communities without providing adequate aftercare for them. Dr. Kolb was asked about plans for change and said that his usual procedure was to evaluate personnel and that, if he found them unsatisfactory, to make changes.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Robert C. Wertz, a Republican of Commack, L.I. said that the Department of Mental Hygiene was a "completely ineffective, inefficient, unresponsive bureaucracy". In fact, Mr. Wertz urged a new Department be set up to supervise facilities in which mental patients were placed after their release from institutions, including nursing homes which are already under investigation.

At the same time, a report by State Comptroller Arthur Levitt concerning 9 of 12 proprietary homes visited in Rockland County in which mental patients released from the Rockland Psychiatric Center had been placed, was critical of meals, staff and programs at these homes.

Operation Link-up

For a year now, you've been hearing about the Developmental Disabilities grant which established the position in the State ARC office of Program Coordinator — Field Representative. Under that title, during the first year of the three-year grant, I've canvassed institutions, family care placements, become involved at Willowbrook, and visited local Association Chapters. Now it's time to begin Phase Two of the project — recently named "Operation Link-up".

The February Regional Meetings were called in order to introduce "Operation Link-up" and the new Advocacy project, SOAR, to all ARC Chapters throughout the state and to solicit ARC members participation.

The great number of residents that have been and are being released to the community has created needs and problems that require effective dialogue and interaction in the form of liaison work between the institutions, all community service agencies, Mental Health Boards, and the Department of Mental Hygiene. "Operation Link-up" will form these liaison Committees and confront the problems growing out of community placements from institutions, such as the demand for family care homes, workshops, hostels, half-way houses, training facilities not to exclude, social, recreational and vacation events.

ARC does not expect to carry this project alone. Each liaison committee will include the institution director, the Chief of Community Services, ARC liaisons, ARC Institution representatives, ARC Executive Directors, Mental Health Board representatives, and representatives from all other service agencies for the retarded in each institution's Catchment area counties.

This committee will be responsible for ascertaining:

(a) the location of all retarded persons placed out of an institution into its Catchment counties and

(b) into what programs the community placed person is involved.

This survey should then point out what services are unavailable, which ones need expansion, as well as in which areas satellite programs will overcome present transportation problems.

Through our liaison Committees, the institutions can be more fully "linked" to service in their communities in terms of respite care, shared staff programs, recreation and social events programs, camping and vacation situations, as well as day training and other planned activities.

For "Operation Link-up" to be successful, all ARC Chapters, all Service Agencies, all institutions, and the Department of Mental Hygiene must work together to provide not only varied programs for all the state's retarded, but also to publicize acceptance of Retarded people as contributing members of society. The retarded should be people from whom one should not shy, but with whom one should empathize. That the retarded have the same inalienable rights as the unlabeled general population, must be recognized.

Our goal will be to make sure that every retarded person who is placed from an institution into the Community has adequate care and housing, a stimulating weekly program suited to his needs and desires, and an on-going monitoring system to insure that no retarded person's "new life" will deteriorate into a semblance of his old one.

By Tom McCarley

CORRECTION

The last issue of Our Children's Voice, listing the members of the State Association Task Force on Mental Retardation, inadvertently omitted that of

Mrs. Ida Rappaport, Executive Director of the Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development, and Chairman of the Interagency Council for Mental Retardation in New York City.



From left to right standing: Geraldo Rivera; Joseph T. Weingold; Orin McCluskey, Executive Director, One-to-One; Edward Emmer, Coordinator of Hostel Program, ARC. Seated, Elliot L. Aronin, President, N.Y.S. ARC.

Hostel project gets grant from One to One

Geraldo Rivera's "One-to-One" has granted \$50,000 to the Mid-Hudson Hostel Project. The intent of the grant is to cover the equity required for this State and Federally funded project. To this end, One-to-One will disburse \$5,000 as each hostel site is acquired by a particular Association Chapter, until all 10 of the projected sites have been acquired. Joseph T. Weingold, thanking Geraldo Rivera and Orin McCluskey, Executive Director of One-to-One, said, "This is exactly the kind of knowledgeable help the mentally retarded need. Geraldo Rivera has granted money at precisely the right point in the particular project which most promises to lead the way in systematically developing alternatives to institutionalization for the mentally retarded."

The One-to-One grant comes just at the time when the project is gathering momentum, adding impetus to the work of the Sullivan, Orange, Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster County Chapters involved in the project.

Thanks to the swift action of Joseph E. Ryan, Executive Director of the Ulster Chapter, in acquiring the first site, needed to form the Mental Retardation Services Company which will act as the conduit for the project's funding, it now appears that this Services Company will be duly incorporated during March. Once incorporated, the Services Company will be able to draw on seed money provided for the project by the Department of Mental Hygiene. This will be the first time this seed money, made available by legislation enacted in 1974, is used anywhere in the State.

The availability of this seed money is especially good news to the project architects, Werfel and Berg, with whom a contract was signed during February. Werfel and Berg have developed a special design system, the Tentacular Elective Components Design System for Hostels, which promises to be a uniquely innovative feature of this project. With the

seed money, Werfel and Berg can begin the initial drawings for the project.

The project is taking a major step at a meeting in March with the New York State Housing Finance Agency, important because it will be the first time funds have actually been reserved for a project mortgaging multiple sites.

Also during March, there will be a joint meeting chaired by Dr. Levester Cannon of the DMH Mid-Hudson Regional Office, with staff from the Department's Central Office, Regional Office and Wassaic and Letchworth Developmental Centers coming together to initiate the process of approving the functional program narratives of the participating Chapters. This will assure the coordination necessary to facilitate the final approvals needed for these programs. This meeting signals the special cooperation and concern which the Department is lending this project.

Concerned to move things along, Mr. Weingold has brought on staff a project coordinator C. Edward Emmer. The new coordinator, said, "Everyone involved in this unique project is moving ahead beautifully . . . especially the Executive Directors of the seven Mid-Hudson Chapters who are, you know, the ones who really do all the work. The pace of this project is also due to no small effort on the part of the various people in DMH who are so strongly committed to seeing these hostels through to the end."

"And now, with this added help from Geraldo Rivera, it seems virtually assured that over one hundred mentally retarded people will finally get the services which many of them have so sorely needed for such a long time."

With at least five sites currently targeted for acquisition by April, it now appears possible, provided everything moves smoothly, that some of the project's planned hostels will open within this calendar year.

Westchester expands

Westchester County Chapter has opened its new Yonkers training Center at 567 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, N.Y. This represents an important expansion from the previous 2000 sq. feet at 803 McLean Avenue, also in Yonkers, to the present 13,000 sq. feet of usable space at the new facility.

The new facility, which is now servicing 70 clients and will ultimately do the same for approximately 150, affords the same programs and services as White Plains —

Vocational Rehabilitation — liaison having been established with local businessmen who can hire trainees and furnish contracts; an expanded adult training program; food services training program is near completion, ceramics workshop, social services, and speech therapy.

Trainees who live in Southern Westchester are now able to receive the valuable training without having to commute to White Plains.

Dr. Goodwin takes Rockefeller to task

In a letter dated October 15, 1975 to Nelson A. Rockefeller when he was testifying before the Senate Rules Committee on his proposed appointment as Vice President, Mary Goodwin, severely called him to task for characterizing some of the retarded as "a vegetable".

My Dear Mr. Rockefeller: On the second day of your testimony before the Senate Rules Committee, you were questioned about possible deficiencies in New York State's programs for its mentally handicapped citizens. Your reply is quoted in the New York Times (October 10, 1974) as follows: "It is very difficult to get people to devote their lives to take care of human beings, while really in full fact it is no more than a vegetable, and to do it 24 hours a day right around the clock."

Your statement is insulting to countless hospital and school employees, to parents and to relatives who care for handicapped human beings with the kind of courage, compassion, and concern with which you seem to be unfamiliar. . .

Your statement is revealing of the reasons for the deaths of hundreds of children in the State Institutions of New York during your term of office. It helps to explain the abuse and neglect of thousands of child residents. It accounts for your

tolerance of the incompetence of your appointed Commissioner of Mental Hygiene to insure the delivery to patients of minimal medical, social and educational services. . .

In the sixties, many residents of New York institutions were ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-clad. . .

In the seventies there are residents of state institutions who are ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-clothed. There are long waiting lists at state schools and no room for dozens of children crowded into a New York City residence amongst rapists and criminals (New York Times August 30, 1974). . .

Meanwhile, the children are waiting — waiting to be rescued from the stereotypes of diagnoses and from the fragmented or non-existent treatment programs in which they have been trapped. They are waiting to be rescued from a department administered by personnel trained in adult medicine. They are waiting to be entrusted, instead, to physicians experienced in child care, growth and development; to teachers sophisticated in teaching the handicapped; to aides chosen because of their kindness and skill in dealing with children.

. . . Mary Stewart Goodwin, M.D.

Education

Handicapped priority; advisors named

Providing relevant educational opportunities for all handicapped children in New York State will remain a top priority of the State Education Department for the current year. With that charge, State Education Commissioner Ewald B. Nyquist convened the first meeting of his newly appointed Commissioner's Advisory Council for Children with Handicapping Conditions in Albany in December.

Nyquist cited a Regents position paper adopted last year which sets forth the Department's commitment to work with local school districts to provide appropriate educational opportunities for handicapped students. In reaffirming this belief, the Commissioner said the purpose of the new council would be to provide a broad range of inputs which would be helpful in developing specific programs.

Membership on the Council represents a wide variety of groups concerned with the handicapped learner — parents, State agencies and institutions serving the handicapped, public and non-public schools, college and university teacher preparation programs, and legal advocates for the handicapped.

Dr. Frances Connor, director of special

education, Teachers College, Columbia University, was named Council chairman. Other members are: Nicholas G. Alexiou, New York State Department of Civil Service; John Behnken, Parent-Teacher Association, Levittown; Martha B. Bernard, Past President New York Association for Brain Injured Children; Thomas J. Goodman, Director, Elmcrest Children's Center, Syracuse; Dr. Mary Stewart Goodwin, Cooperstown; Sidney S. Harris, United Federation of Teachers; Pierce Hoban, Supt. of Schools, Setauket; J. Alan Davitt, New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, Albany; Helen Feulner, Acting Assist. Supt. New York City Board of Education; Elmer Lux, Department of State, Buffalo; Hon. Justine Wise Polier, Children's Defense Fund of the Washington Research Project; Robert J. Hodgson, former President, New York State Association for Retarded Children; Paul Irvine, Director of Special Education, Westchester BOCES, Yorktown Heights; Theodore G. Sturgis, Supt. of Schools, Ithaca; Helen B. Vandermosten, President, New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers; Henry Viscardi, Jr., President, Human Resources Center, Albertson.

Disregard for human life

Although the residents that had previously been transferred from the Manhattan Developmental Center on Morton Street to Keener have been returned, what happened at Keener is an indication of the utter disregard for the human beings evidenced by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

We quote from a letter of the Parents Joint Steering Committee, Manhattan Developmental Center, (although dated November 5, 1974) which illustrates this clearly.

"We are horrified by the desperate conditions at Keener facility on Ward's

Island. The human suffering cannot be endured while the building emergency at 75 Morton Street drags on and on.

We will not listen to any excuse that money is not available. We know that there are several hundred millions of dollars in state bonds to purchase homes. We have studied how money is wasted on useless administration and planning councils who do not plan."

Let us continue under the same administration, say prominent professionals, ostensibly concerned with the welfare of the retarded.

Sansone on Medicaid

One of the facts of life that we must learn to accept is, that whenever the Association for Retarded Children latches on to a program which may give it financial aid for the mentally retarded, there are those in power who will find reasons why the ARC does not qualify. A case in point is Medicaid in which more and more chapters of the Association are beginning to participate.

This has aroused the beasts immediately and we are now being confronted with such statements that our sheltered workshops do not qualify for Medicaid because they are not therapeutically oriented, that our day training centers are not such units as would be supervised by psychiatrists, etc., etc.

To this, Robert Sansone, executive director of the Nassau County Chapter, and one of the leaders in the field of obtaining Medicaid for programs for the mentally retarded has some very cogent answers.

In an article appearing in the December 1974 issue of the "AHRC Lamplighter", the publication of the Suffolk County Chapter he says:

"As another episode in the continuing saga describing and defining the program setting the AHRC provides for Medicaid reimbursement, I cite Title 29, Part 525 of the Department of Labor Federal Regulations which certifies our program as a 'Work Activities Center'. In this connection, some have raised the question that our base day care program may fall into a strict sheltered workshop or vocational rehabilitation facility category with vocational training and competitive employment as an ultimate program objective. While we sometimes use the terms sheltered workshop and vocational rehabilitation center loosely and interchangeably, this is not so. Our population, as viewed by the Department of Labor, is terminal in a competitive employment sense. This is due, principally, to severity of handicap and permanence of disability, thus our certification as a work activities center. The definition of a sheltered workshop is quite clear in Section 525.2(b) of the Federal Regulations.

In contract, however, Part (c) of this section appropriately describes both our program objectives and the population we deal with in rather accurate alignment with Mental Hygiene's Day Care category:

(c) "Work Activities Center" shall mean a workshop, or a physically separated department of a workshop having an identifiable program, separate supervision and records, planned and designed exclusively to provide therapeutic activities for handicapped workers whose physical and mental impairment is so severe as to make their productive capacity inconsequential. Therapeutic activities include custodial activities (such as activities where the focus is on teaching the basic skills of Living), and any purposeful activity so long as work or production is not the main purpose. No sheltered workshop or separate department thereof shall qualify as a work activities if the average productivity per handicapped worker is \$850 or more per year, etc.

M.D. unnecessary

Chapter 555, Laws of 1974 has removed the statutory requirement that the director of a hospital in the Department of Mental Hygiene need not be a licensed M.D.

This requirement has been removed several years ago for the state schools for the mentally retarded and also for the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

Unlike the traditional psychiatrically modeled day care center, our program services are concerned with the long-term stabilization of permanently disabled individuals through ongoing medical and casework supervision in a work and production oriented environment, namely; our work activity centers. Through this format, and by keeping the treatment feature, subdued and infused with work, production and normal activities of daily living, we are able to get our disabled people to some level of economic usefulness. In pairing this clinical function with the normalizing aims of work and production, we are able to achieve in great measure, a therapeutic goal and at the same time have our handicapped people contribute goods and services back to the economy.

Now in terms of where our medical assistance tax dollars are going, this should be compared with the traditional psychiatric day care center which provides little more than the arts and crafts, ping-pong, and television, paired with a clinic visit with a psychiatrist, which usually results in a prescription for one sort of medical or another. This program format for medical assistance funds, I feel, ought to be modified according to our fully established and more effective model. It would appear that some of these formats in the traditional psychiatric day care program relate back to the Department of Mental Hygiene Policy and Procedural Manual in its Definition of Services. According to the manual's definition of day care, the service options are incredibly broad and lack any sort of program discipline. This is how it reads:

Day Care is a program offering treatment including a planned program of recreational, social, and vocational activities in a therapeutic environment. Treatment services may be provided by a staff which may include psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, educators, occupational and recreational therapists, psychiatric aides and volunteers. Treatment may include individual or group therapy, patient staff meeting, drug therapy, occupational therapy, recreational therapy and other activity. A unit of day care, regardless of its components, must be at least five hours in duration for an individual patient."

Sansone next goes on to the attack against where the medical assistance tax dollars are going in terms of day care. He states... "The traditional psychiatric day care center which provides little more than arts and crafts, ping-pong and television, paired with a clinic visit with a psychiatrist, which usually results in the prescription of one sort of medical or another" should be compared with our developmental program.

He further attacks the regulations and policy procedure manual definition of services of the Department of Mental Hygiene which defines day care as "treatment may include individual or group therapy, patient - staff meeting, drug therapy, occupational therapy, recreational therapy and other activity." All this is funded at the rate of \$28 a day through medical assistance program, but the programs of the Association which are developmental, and not arts and crafts, are being attacked.

Carriers join drive

A major fund drive for the Albany Association for Retarded Children was aided by the letter carriers of the district who delivered some of the 130,000 pamphlets conveying the Association's appeal.

Kolb visits Willowbrook

"IF I HAD A CHILD LIKE THIS, I WOULD WANT TO SEE HIM IN HANDS OF THE PEOPLE I MET AT WILLOWBROOK" — DR. LAWRENCE KOLB, COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HYGIENE."

This statement was made by Dr. Lawrence C. Kolb, newly appointed Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, after a 3 hour visit to Willowbrook. At a press conference after the tour, he said he hoped that, within 18 months, the state would be able to reduce the number of residents at Willowbrook by 800 by transferring residents either to community residences or back to their families.

He said a reduction of this size would enable staff to better maintain care at Willowbrook. With the population reduced, he said, Willowbrook would be better

staffed than any other school in the state.

At the present time, the population at Willowbrook is less than half it was when action was started by the New York State Association for Retarded Children against the Commissioner and the State of New York. There are less than 3000 residents there and Rome, Wassaic and Letchworth are more overcrowded.

Nevertheless, according to reports of staff of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, conditions at Willowbrook and the training of the residents is very little improved over what it had been a number of years ago before the reduction in staff.

We can only hope that Dr. Kolb is never in a position to have "a child like this" and certainly not in the position of having to put him into Willowbrook — or any other state institution.

Kolb deplures

Willowbrook critics

In a radio interview on January 6th, 1975 over news radio CBS, Dr. Kolb told the reporter constant criticism of the institutions only serves to demoralize employees.

The following is a verbatim transcript of Dr. Kolb's interview "Let me tell you that working in these very large institutions, or any institution where you have seriously brain damaged or seriously disturbed people, calls forth a great pressure, a great emotional demand upon those who work there. At Willowbrook at the present time, there is a 35 percent turnover. Some of that, I am quite certain, has resulted from the very adverse publicity that has existed. If there is major turnover, the care of the patients undoubtedly fails. I hope that this staff and others might be left

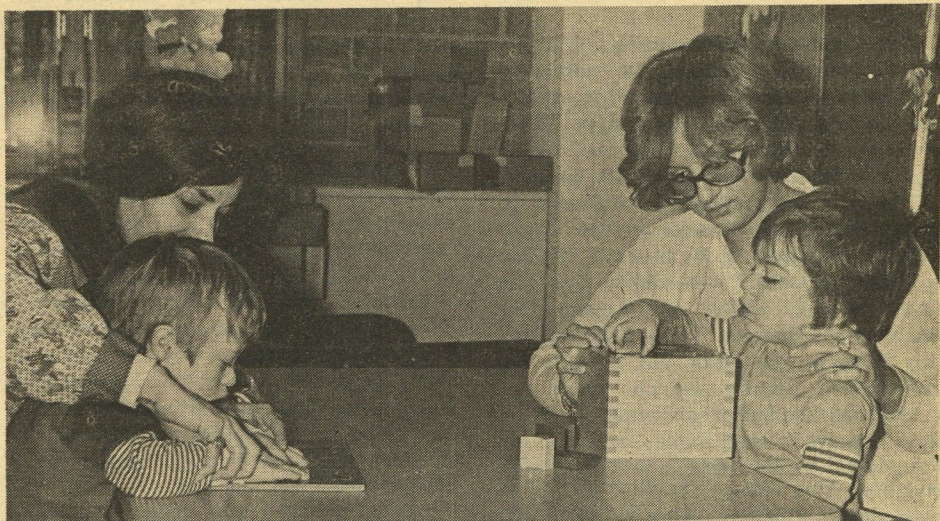
peacefully for a while to regroup, regroup and once more be able to undertake the task that lies before them."

In a verbatim transcript of a press conference reported in the Mental Hygiene News of January 17, 1975 in answer to the question "Do you feel there is a tendency on the part of the public to take cheap shots at institutions like Willowbrook?" Dr. Kolb answered:

"I'm delighted with your question. It seems to me constantly focusing on a single institution leads to demoralization of the staff."

He then made the following astounding statement which spells ill for the severely and profoundly retarded:

"The real mental health effort must be taken with those who can be maintained and will become active members of our community."



Rockland Early Intervention

The Rockland County Association for the Help of Retarded Children has completed its first successful year of its Early Intervention Program. At the present time, 15 children, ages 4 months to 3 years, are enrolled. A teacher and two aides plus, O.T., P.T., Speech, and psychiatric consultation, comprise the staff.

N.Y.S. YOUTH newsletter

The State YOUTH Board has finally begun publishing a quarterly newsletter. Mrs. Jo Ioveno, the State YOUTH advisor, came up with the unanimously accepted name, "The New Yarc-er". Kirk Lewis, State Senior V.P. of Schenectady is the editor-in-chief. The second edition is hot off the press and promises that future ones will be progressively more creative, enlightening and entertaining. If you haven't received your copy, it's only because your President failed to send Kirk your membership list and addresses.

ARC members on Board

E. G. Laughery, executive director of the Westchester County Chapter and Mrs. Joseph A. McDonnell of Bedford, member of the Northern Westchester League for Retarded Children and board member of the Westchester Association for Retarded Children, were appointed by Governor Malcom Wilson as two of the four members of the recently created board of visitors of the Westchester Developmental Center.

There is no institution facility yet in the Developmental Center.

Congress passes major legislation

Probably one of the most important pieces of legislation enacted by the 93rd Congress in relation to mental health — mental retardation programs is the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-641), which President Ford signed January 4th. The bill establishes a national network of health systems agencies which will plan, develop and implement health service delivery, including programs for the mentally and emotionally handicapped.

The new law establishes a National Advisory Council on Health Planning and Development to develop national guidelines, evaluate the implications of new medical technology, etc.

The state planning and development agencies will be advised by a Statewide Health Coordinating Council of consumers, government representatives and providers.

The Hill-Burton program is replaced with a program for modernization of medical facilities, construction of new outpatient facilities, and conversion of existing facilities for provision of new health services.

Also passed by the Congress, is the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 (PL 93-112). Congress was required to override President Ford's veto of the Rehabilitation Amendments of 1974 to enact legislation to extend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The new law (PL 93-516) made some significant changes with emphasis on the severely handicapped, transfer of rehabilitation services administration, social and rehabilitation service to the Office of H.E.W. Secretary and directing the states to submit a consolidated Voc. Rehab. and Developmental Disabilities Plan. The authorization for grants to the state is raised to \$720 million for the fiscal year 1976.

Audit report blasts Suffolk State School

The operation of the \$40 million Suffolk State School for the mentally retarded in Melville, L.I. has been broadly criticized in an audit report from the State Comptroller's office.

Auditors found fault with practically every aspect of the school's operation — food, education, training, workshops, security and transport, for example, as well as the pitted bowling alley floor.

"The school was generally not achieving its basic goal," the report says, **"to train and educate the developmentally handicapped and to advance them to their maximum potential so that they might live as productive a life as possible."**

"Instead," the report continued, **"the focus was on providing basic necessities (food, clothing and shelter) ... The school's**

emphasis should be redirected to provide residents with the therapeutic programs which will allow them to lead more useful lives."

In a "managerial summary" the report contained the following comments:

"There was often little activity or training given residents on the wards. Many residents sat in day rooms with nothing to do while attendants were not productively occupied ... Over 16 per cent of the residents had no scheduled training."

Supervision over employees was so ineffective that residents were provided with fewer services than were feasible. Only 260 of the 1800 residents received regular (classroom) type instruction."

CAREY — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Conklin said, "Hugh followed me after the speech. They had given me a silver platter as a gift and I remember he said, 'Whatever Bill Conklin wants, Bill Conklin gets. Take the bill and put it on that silver platter and scale it down to me like a frisbee on the second floor and here's the pen I'll use to sign it.'"

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the Association said he had been at the Convention dinner and Senator Conklin's recollection of Mr. Carey's pledge was accurate, "right down to the Frisbee metaphor". Said Mr. Weingold, "We believe that if politicians are elected to office by people on the basis of promises made, those promises should be kept. Otherwise we should all go jump in the river and drown. Our lives are in their hands."

Mr. Laird's statement that Mr. Carey's position throughout the campaign had been that he was not informed enough about the question to make a definitive pledge on what he would do, is belied by the fact that Mr. Carey made his speech after a conference by Mr. Aronin, President of the State Association, Helen Kaplan, executive director of the Nassau County Chapter, and Joseph T. Weingold with Susan Carey, one of the Governor's aides during his campaign and the Governor's research director, where this problem was gone into in great depth. Thereafter, Susan Carey called Mr. Weingold and asked if her father could appear at the State Convention to make a statement and this was agreed upon.

After his election, however, he appointed a study panel on mental health problems

headed by Dr. Kevin Cahill, advisor to the Governor on mental health and health matters. Dr. Cahill's report of the Task Force on Mental Health reached the conclusion that it would not be in the best interests of the mentally retarded to separate mental retardation from mental illness, alcoholism and drug addiction. Dr. Lawrence Kolb, appointed Commissioner of Mental Hygiene by the Governor, after first stating that he would not oppose the bill, then changed his mind and went along with the party line for reasons that only he knows.

If any proof is needed that the Governor is not telling the facts as they are, we have but to listen to an actual tape of the voice of Mr. Leonard Stavisky made from a speech on October 17th at Menorah Hall in Queens at a Symposium on the State Association for Retarded Children's Legislative Program.

In front of over 200 persons from many, many agencies, and most of the legislators running for office, Mr. Stavisky as representative of Governor Carey stated categorically that "Congressman Carey — Governor Carey will sign the bill to separate mental retardation from the Administration of Mental Illness."

This tape is available for anyone to hear who wishes and if necessary will be played on the floor of the Legislature.

In addition, the Association has the pledge of Speaker Stanley Steingut that he will introduce the bill, which he did, (A. 2.B) and will see to it that it is reported and passed. We have every confidence that he will do so.

"It is sad indeed," said Mr. Aronin,

Mental Hygiene

Miller resigns

Dr. Alan D. Miller, on December 20th, announced his resignation as head of the state Department of Mental Hygiene. He will head a community health center in Albany and be associate dean of the Albany Medical College of Union University.

In commenting on the resignation, Mr. Carey expressed appreciation to the Commissioner for his "Spirit of cooperation" and his willingness to aid in the orderly transfer of responsibilities in the Mental Hygiene Department. The Commissioner's job paid \$51,000 a year and carried a \$3,000 expense account.

Dr. Miller will become project director-medical director of The Whitney M. Young Jr. community health center sponsored by the Union University Albany Medical College.

Dr. Miller came to the Department of

Mental Hygiene in 1964 as associate commissioner in the department's division of community services. Two years later, former Governor Rockefeller named him Commissioner.

Before joining the state agency he was with the United States Public Health Services for about 20 years. He received his medical degree from N.Y.U. College of Medicine and a Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. He has held professorships at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the New York School of Psychiatry.

The Whitney M. Young Jr. community health center, set up in 1971, has a \$1.5 million facility. It is federally sponsored and serves about 16,000 ambulatory patients.

State funds misdirected

Mental Hygiene underspent the state appropriation by several hundred million dollars a year for the last four years, using the money it "saved" to reduce the need for new state funds rather than for expansion, a state budget official testified at the Willowbrook trial.

He said, at a hearing in Federal Court in Brooklyn, that, since 1971, the Department had returned a total of \$876 million in surplus funds to the State Comptroller.

Earlier witnesses for the New York State Association, and others suing for a Federal order directing the state to provide better care for the mentally retarded, had testified that the \$876 million should have been used to develop community facilities.

The surplus had been left over from funds received for the maintenance and care of patients after administrative expenses were paid and reserves set aside for rental of facilities, according to Leon Ratzker, director of Finance and fiscal management for the State Facilities Development Corporation.

Mr. Ratzker conceded that the surplus funds had been handed over to the Comptroller. He said it had been done to conform to a state law and that his agency, set up solely to build mental health facilities, had no control over the matter.

Under questioning by George C. Mantzoros, assistant attorney general, Mr. Ratzker also sought to rebut the testimony of earlier witnesses that \$380 million remained unused from \$1,050,000,000 in bonds authorized by the Legislature that could be used to build community facilities.

Mr. Ratzker said \$404 million of the authorization remained unused but was not "readily available." He outlined the procedure necessary for its use, which begins with authorization by the Mental Hygiene Department, formal request by the Governor in his annual budget, approval by the Legislature, and sale of bonds to produce the funds.

A Consent Agreement of over 70 pages, negotiated by Civil Liberties Union and New York State Association for Retarded Children and its representatives with them Commissioner Alan Miller, was not signed by Governor Wilson and still remains on Governor Carey's desk for possible approval.



We're Helping

We have received a most interesting promotional folder for membership in the Monroe County Chapter.

This folder features a group of retarded young persons, residents of the 3 hostels established by the Monroe County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children in Rochester, who responded to the invitation of the Chapter to support its work. They became members of the Monroe County Chapter because they appreciated the opportunities for growth and independence afforded them and because they wished to assist others in similar achievement.

The pictures of these young people have become the cover of the membership folder with the caption "We're helping!". Inside the thought is completed with the plea, "But...we can't do it alone" followed by this explanation:

"We are residents of the Association for Retarded Children's three Hostels. Your support has enabled us to become self-sufficient people in the community. Because we want to help others attain this goal, we have become members of A.R.C. Won't you please Join Us!"

If you have not seen this folder, write to the Monroe County Chapter, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14620 for a copy. It is well worth seeing.

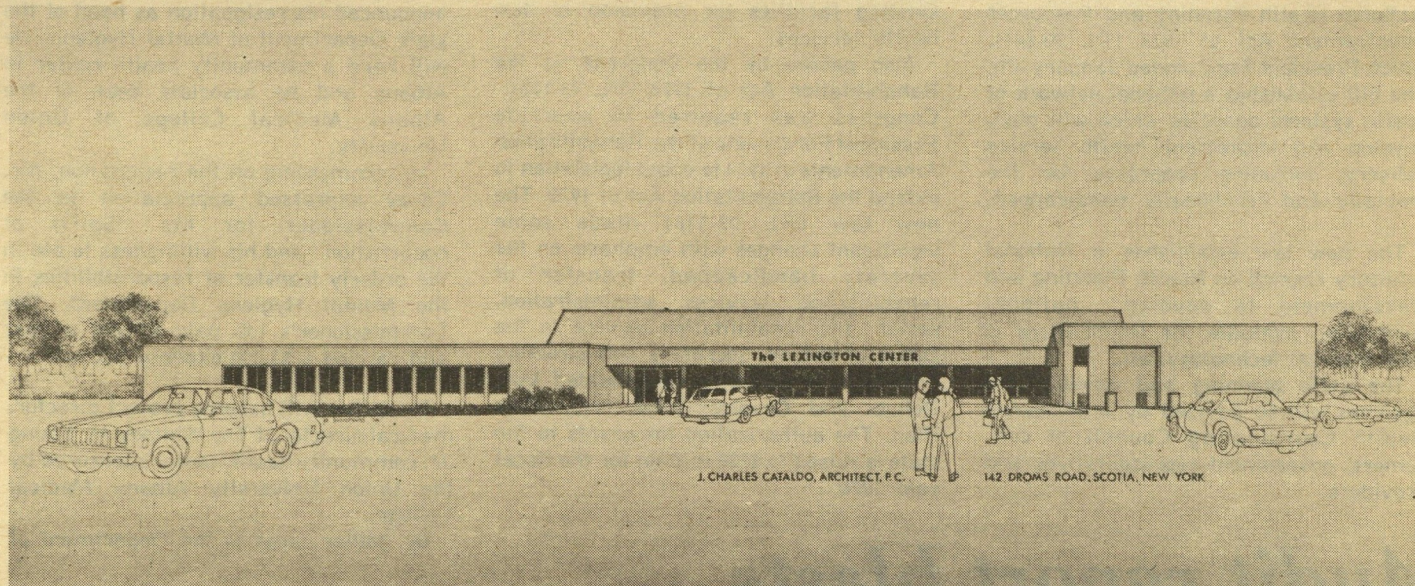
President of the Association, "that elected officials feel that they can get away with this kind of misstatement, which is a very mild word for what is actually being said. We hope the Governor's statement, that he

did not make a pledge, is a misunderstanding; that his recollection will be refreshed from the Stavisky tape as well as the affidavits of those present at the dinner."

CHAPTER NEWS

What our chapters
and saying for

NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER leads off this issues Chapter news. We think of them because of their very successful membership drive. Their November paper carried a story with numerous pictures showing how they do it. Awards were given to various groups within the County for such accomplishments as greatest percentage of new members; greatest number of life members; best membership retention. — **BENEVOLENT SOCIETY WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER** is looking forward to their Silver Anniversary Luncheon on May 10th. Also very active in their new hostel committee chaired by Jerry Isaacs — **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER** writes to tell of the acquisition of a new hostel in Bay Shore and of the Chapter consolidation of the offices and Vocational Training Center December 16. Their new facility is in Hauppauge, to which the administrative offices moved after a quarter century in Patchogue — **GREENE COUNTY CHAPTER** just bubbling with activity as indicated by the following recent article for OCV. "The Greene County Chapter marked a first for their county, when they opened the doors to their new Work Activity Center on January 6, 1975. They were able to provide this service, through a grant from DDA. The center is temporarily located at St. Anthony's Friary in Catskill. The program is divided into several areas: maintenance training, Food Services Training, ADL activities, prime manufacturing area, subcontract area, evaluation unit and a remedial education class section. The Chapter has obtained their first contract from a local industry, Becker Electronics. They also keep the two minibuses that the Chapter has in good, clean condition. The Chapter purchased a new fifteen passenger mini bus to put the program into action. Besides this new program, where there are approximately 25 clients enrolled, the Greene County Chapter's Pre-primary Program is going full speed ahead. Under the direction of our well qualified and able Teacher Ms. Jan Uebhear, there are seven youngsters enrolled, of varying ages and disabilities...who would had ever thought that we would be reading the news that we see in the **HERKIMER COUNTY CHAPTER** newsletter. It reports that they are holding not only basketball programs for their adults, but karate classes as well — Great news from **STEBEN COUNTY CHAPTER** that as of the beginning of the new year they had eight persons opening their adolescent and adult program. They have also continued their day training centers, expanded recreation programs and are looking for a hostel. We like their suggestion that they give a membership as a Christmas gift. Some of our Chapters are very innovative — **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** continues its broad range of services. Was interested to learn that they give 6 scholarships thru the Chapter. It was a pleasure reading so many names of their recipients, who have been active members of our State YOUTH organization. Delighted to see the satellite of **Munroe County Chapter operating in full swing**. Continuing their active gardening program and pushing it with a newsletter section entitled "Horticultural Happenings". In many ways I felt that the message from Ronald Parent, President of **MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER** in their recent newsletter spoke very well on behalf of how many of us feel about work in the Chapters. Let us quote from it. "I would like to take a few minutes of your time to give you a progress report of the exciting happenings at the A.R.C. A few short years ago, men of compassion and vision foresaw a time when Madison Coun-



An architect's rendering of what the new Lexington Training Center in Fulton County will look like.

ty would have facilities for the mentally handicapped that would provide for them from birth throughout their lives. We who have taken over after John Kearney, Abe Strauss and Bill Allen, can now see their goal nearing completion. We have, this past September, started a Pre-school Program so that parents and children can avail themselves of the information and therapy so desperately needed in the first years of the retarded child's life. As the child reaches school age, the parent now has a choice of B.O.C.E.S. special class in the public school or the ARC Learning Center. When some children reach high school age, there is the pre-vocational class. On reaching 21, the Workshop is then available to provide the work-like setting that hopefully will place them in employment, or an activity center for the non-employable. The program before us at this time is the Hostel, a home atmosphere — a community in which to happily live out their lives. — Had a most interesting conversation with Donald G. Geist, new Executive Director of our **CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER** at the Northeast Regional conference. Donald told us that the larger quarters into which Clinton County moved such a short time ago are already growing crowded. Just another indication of how needs must be met — The

ONEIDA COUNTY CHAPTER'S Ladies Auxiliary sent out a recent notice that made it appear that everybody in Utica was working for Oneida County Chapter. They indicated that the Jaycees were planning a Winter Carnival at the Armory on behalf of the Chapter, and that the Lions Club was offering a booth at their Home Show. An International Dinner was going to be sponsored by the Auxiliary in May and another dinner was to be held in June. No wonder Oneida County Chapter can talk about the expansion of program in their newsletter with so much fine help — **SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER'S** Maple Ridge Center really buzzing during February. On the weekend of the 22nd, the Chapter played host to the Northeast Regional Meeting of the Association. The following weekend March 1st and 2nd. Karen Murray and Kirk Lewis, Northeast Region YOUTH Board members, were the backbone of a weekend rally for all YOUTH members in the Northeast Region. The whole program moving forward rapidly under new Exec. Director Matthew Puleo — **MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER** opening their Community Residence at 92 Market Street in Amsterdam. We also received word that the Chapter is awarding two scholarships to Juniors or Seniors in college pursuing a

career related to help for retarded or handicapped individuals — **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER** has many interesting articles in their newsletters, but perhaps the most interesting was the fact that they now have 276 clients receiving services everyday in Chautauqua County — **FULTON COUNTY**, hoping for a new home, especially after losing the Lexington Training Center to a fire writes as follows: "Bids for the construction of Fulton County Chapter New York State Association for Retarded Children's new facility were opened on January 23, 1975. The low bid is being reviewed by State and Federal officials and the contract is expected to be awarded some time during the first two weeks in February. The low bid was well within the

approved budget for the new facility which the Fulton County Chapter expects to occupy by the end of 1975. — **ONONDAGA**

COUNTY CHAPTER, who hosted our Central Regional Meeting ran an interesting article recently indicating that their Executive Director, Dr. Nicholas Collis was a speaker at the Convention of the Newfoundland ARC. — **WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER** writes to say "We have 15 preschoolers ages 2-4½ in our school program. In the community we

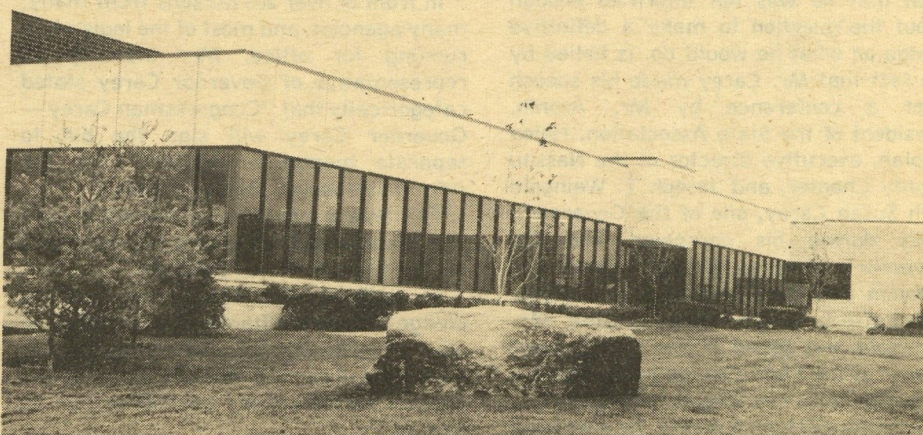
have around 10 children 0-2 ages working in the home on early intervention with our staff going into the homes working with the parent to work with the child. School age children under 4404 and 4407 we have 35 children ages 5-21. Within our Vocational Rehabilitation Center we have total of 35 clients placement in Competitive Employment (time period Jan. 74 - Dec. 74) - 15 clients. Homebound Employment -1, Sheltered Employment -7 total placement

23 clients. Outreach program — this involves staff working in the community to work with ex-residents of Newark Developmental Center to guide them in the community and to help them adjust to the outside world and providing program to meet their needs, total client load 30. Projections for '75 - A new building for a hostel that will be in walking distance to the Workshop. We have involved the

community to help us on this. We are working closely with BOCES & Newark Developmental and ARC for better communications — meeting regularly to discuss program in the education center and work programs in their workshops to avoid duplication." From **DUTCHESS COUNTY CHAPTER** we learned that the Dutchess County Chapter held its first open house for the work activities program



Richard Hamilton removes the Suffolk County Chapter sign from their Patchogue building after 25 years in that community.



But look at the new center to ease the "cultural shock"!

s are doing our children.

on Saturday, November 23rd. Many of the County's notables were invited. The Staff and clients were on hand to demonstrate some of the work situations, to display some of the craft items manufactured at the center etc. Films were shown on mental retardation, the two girl scout troops that are sponsored by the Chapter also had an exhibit. The Center had been open less than two years and was already serving 40 clients and more were scheduled to enter in December. The staff now boasts nine on the payroll. — **SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER** reports the beginning of the new YOUTH group which we hope will be the beginning of additional new and exciting program. The Chapter's Executive Director, Marc Brandt did quite a job on the Chapter's 25th anniversary in their January newsletter. It indicates that the Chapter has better than doubled its services in the past year. That's some growth. Over 200 County residents were present for the October 20 dedication of the Martin H. Bennett school. Mr. John Halchak, Jr., President of the Board of Directors opened the ceremony by welcoming all those who attended. On behalf of the town of

Fallsburg and the Sullivan County Board of supervisors, Mr. Sam Rosenshein greeted the guests. Mrs. Muriel Gitlin, Vice Chairman of the Sullivan County Mental Health Board presented to the Sullivan County ARC a plaque from the mental health board of Sullivan County in grateful appreciation for services rendered to the residents of Sullivan County. Marc Brandt, Executive Director, delivered the formal dedication address, emphasizing Mr. Bennett's 25 years of service to the Sullivan County Chapter. Mrs. Ruth Bennett thanked the Chapter for the honor and presented a flag and a gift to initiate the Martin H. Bennett memorial fund. — **WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

CHAPTER honored Westchester Rockland Newspapers at its Fifth Annual "Friends of the Retarded" Ball on Saturday, February 1 at the White Plains Hotel. The newspaper was honored this year because of its tireless efforts on behalf of retarded persons. Mr. Thomas P. Dolan, Chairman of W.R.N., was the recipient of the award.

— **BROOME-TIOGA COUNTY CHAPTER** keeps their clients busy at all times but have even started out this year by providing programs to the clients over their lunch hour. Primarily it appeared they are providing informative film for the clients after they have finished eating and before they return to the work. Busy, busy, busy. — My favorite undertaking, recycling growing by leaps and bounds in

CAYUGA COUNTY CHAPTER and will occupy almost 11,400 square feet of space

— **LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER** writes to say "effective Jan. 1, 1975, the Workshop has moved to a former elementary school in Greig, N.Y. The building is owned and leased from the South Lewis Central School District, who used the structure until February 1974. — **CORTLAND COUNTY CHAPTER** joining the long list of ARCs looking to start a hostel. We hope this worthwhile project will be undertaken soon — **WELFARE LEAGUE LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER** have certificates of award to 30 West Point Cadets for volunteer service given by the Cadets to residents of Letchworth Village. Congratulations to Dorothy Gasman upon her re-election as President of Letchworth Village Chapter —

Schoharie's 'Our House'

After a little more than a year of operation, the hostel for the retarded in Schoharie County, "Our House", can be said to be a fair description of what is going on.

Under the sponsorship of the Schoharie County Association and operated by Judy and David Briden, the hostel opened its doors to the adult retarded of the county December 1973. It was dubbed "Our House" by the young directors and by Elizabeth Southard, ARC executive director.

Nine retarded adults, ranging in age from 19-52, make their home in the old sprawling house on Main Street in the Village of Cobleskill, journeying from there each day to jobs in the community or at the Schoharie Valley Training Center in Middleburgh.

Most of the residents, five men and four women, came to the hostel from their own or family homes in the county with most of the applications channeled through the training center, where Mrs. Briden was employed as a social worker before the hostel opened. In addition to their jobs, the residents are responsible for cooking and cleaning in the hostel and that self-help arrangement has worked out very well, Mrs. Briden said.

In spite of the vast differences in ages and abilities, the group has turned out to be very compatible. One of the big reasons for the camaraderie is that no one was coerced into coming to the hostel in the first place and all are free to leave if they are dissatisfied or feel they would like to try another living situation.

Although, according to Mrs. Briden, they are not as involved as parents. But, like parenthood, the job is a 24 hour a day operation. Their apartment is located in the hostel and they are on call at all times, except weekends, when they are relieved by respite workers.

A case worker from the Eleanor Roosevelt Developmental Center in Schoharie visits the center about once a week to talk with the clients over dinner. Residents are encouraged to participate in community activities, some enrolling in non-academic mini courses at Cobleskill Tech and one taking a pottery course with Mrs. Briden at Schoharie Central School.

Last Summer they managed a two week trip to Maine.

"It is a very good feeling job," said Mrs. Briden.

Hostel's good year

The Elmer Lux Hostel for the developmentally disabled in Buffalo recently marked its first anniversary of service to the community. Its program is a joint effort of its parent organization, the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Western New York, under a grant from the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

Edward Dale, director, said that the hostel served 32 clients in the first 12 months, seventeen of them were referred by West Seneca Developmental Center. Fifteen came directly from private homes. At present there are 19 residents covering four different functioning levels.

"We have learned so much about community-based domiciliary services, I can now see how the pieces can fit together," Mr. Dale said. "Our goals are now to establish even more levels of independent living; we cannot become just an island."

The hostel, located at 119 Halbert Street in Buffalo, is named after Elmer F. Lux, President United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State and a board member of that Association for 3 years.



Schoharie Phone-A-Thon

Dick Wood of WTEN Action News, Albany is seen in action at recent Phone-a-thon for Schoharie County's retarded children. Hank Kunze and Bill Edwardsen of WQBK, Albany beam their approval as Howard Tupper of WGY, WGFM look on. Also looking on are Mrs. Betty Southard, executive director of ARC; Mrs. Margot Vogel, president of ARC; Steve Fitz of Station WQBK; Mrs. Catherine Moser, vice president of ARC; Mrs. Naomi Jones, treasurer and Albert Kivort, director. A phone-a-thon held Saturday, Oct. 19th for Schoharie County's retarded children, brought an array of TV, radio and movie personalities to the Grand Union in Cobleskill, seldom seen under one roof, all at the same time. People enjoyed chatting with their favorite personalities: Howard Tupper, bowling host and news commentator on WGY and WRGB, Schenectady; Hank Junze, Bill Edwardsen, program director, and Steve Fitz of WQBK, Albany; Dick Wood of WTEN, Action News, Albany; and John McGiver, who recently returned from Hollywood where he finished the filming of his part in a new Disney movie.

Brooklyn Guild opens center

The Guild for Exceptional Children, Inc. a group operating facilities for the mentally retarded in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, recently dedicated a newly acquired facility at 260-68th Street in Brooklyn that will eventually provide services for 150 mentally retarded children and adults in programs of education, arts and crafts, sheltered workshop training, and employment and recreation.

Presiding at the opening of the Charles A. Mastronardi Center for the Mentally Retarded were the Guild's president Anthony J. Raimondi, Olga DeFellipo, executive director and Gabriel Martini, assistant director.

Mr. Mastronardi, for whom the new center is named, is a long-time benefactor of the Guild for Exceptional Children. He is also Mrs. DeFellipo's uncle and a "truly remarkable man" in the view of an admirer.

The facility project, which involved the renovation and equipping of an existing building, was developed by Mr. Curley's office (Edward Curley) under Article 11 of the Mental Hygiene Law in cooperation with the New York State Housing Finance Agency.

The building was acquired for \$400,000 and renovated and equipped for \$235,000.

Speakers at the dedication included Senator William T. Conklin, a major force in founding the Guild, Edward Curley, director of the department's office of community facilities planning; Dr. Ida Gelber, borough chief for Brooklyn from the department's New York City regional office; Edward Bopp, assistant director of the New York State Housing Finance Agency; and Edward Hildebrandt of the New York City Office of Neighborhood Government.

Four Rome deaths stir protest

Four deaths at Rome State School, inadequately explained, according to community leaders, have stirred a concerted protest on conditions which have lead to situations such as this.

A coalition of seven Metropolitan agencies in Syracuse pushed for an investigation of the "four questionable" deaths stating that Mental Hygiene officials had failed "to stay on top of issues concerning state mental institutions."

A telegram was dispatched by Stephen Taylor of the Center on Human Policy in Syracuse University to Dr. Lawrence Kolb and Governor Hugh Carey. The only official response came from regional mental hygiene commissioner, William D. Voorhees, Jr. through his communications director, who said there was no further reason for investigation.

Both the Onondaga County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children and the New York State Chapter of the American Association on Mental Deficiency are pressing for further action.

The Association on Mental Deficiency has requested the formation of a special committee of the American Association on Mental Deficiency to look into conditions at Rome State School, especially with regard to medical supervision.

The incident is being used as a springboard for a wider examination of policy at the institutions and how the Department of Mental Hygiene is meeting the demands for more community services and better care and treatment in the institution.

According to Elliot Aronin, President of the State Association, "The situation at Rome State School is no different from that in many other of the state schools, now euphemistically called developmental centers. The fact of the matter is that the whole system of the delivery of services must be examined and this is the thrust of the Association's insistence on the separation of mental retardation from the bureaucracy of the Department of Mental Hygiene, which has been completely unresponsive to the aspirations of the parents in the management of the mentally retarded."

Your child in public school

How to Move Bureaucracies (extracted from DesJardins, C. **How to Organize an Effective Parent Group and Move Bureaucracies**, 1971 Coordinating Council for Handicapped Children, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60605 (\$1.50).

There are public servants who are sincerely devoted to handicapped children, who are making a major effort on their behalf, and who find themselves continuously frustrated by the bureaucracy employing them. But there are many more who simply fall in with the bureaucracy's slow motion ways, its rigid adherence to the status quo. To move bureaucracies you must constantly bear in mind that bureaucrats are public servants; that they are **paid by you to provide services for you and your child**; that you are the master; they, the servant — not the other way around. Parents who keep this in mind, and act accordingly — usually get action. . .

The Education Committee received correspondence describing a real success story from Georgia Sullivan and Judy Shalvey of Orange County. . . starting with an inquiry to their Assistant Superintendent of Schools about the Committee for the Handicapped and look what happened. They convinced the AHRC Board of Directors to set up a Committee for the Handicapped in the public schools and this committee set up a meeting with the school board, armed with an impressive Position Paper No. 1, listing their suggestions regarding problems such as placement, poor facilities, consciousness raising for administrators, teacher, staff, etc., report cards etc., and in their words "the meeting went very well, and subsequent meetings were scheduled."

They are planning to send this position paper to each member of the school board, requesting that it be discussed at a regular school board meeting, they are requesting the AHRC parents to take this position paper to the local school districts, their aim being to get parents on committees for the handicapped or at least meeting with top officials all through Orange County. They are looking into candidates for school board, asking their thoughts on the handicapped. Quoting from their letter again "Our next step is to visit every special "ed" class in the school district, with a checklist of things to look for when we visit these classes. If anyone else has already done this, I'd love to see a copy. **Members do you have such a check list? Can you send one into us to share with other members?** Finally, they write, that for their AHRC district meeting, they are inviting the heads of their Special Ed Dept. from the 6 school districts to come and talk to their parents to create an awareness in the parents of who the administrators are and what the school district is doing, and to let the administrators know who the parents are and what **we can do**. I hope this is an inspiration for all of you. Please let us **know what you are doing in your district**.

It really isn't hard. If you want a copy of their Position Paper, please write to the State Office and we'll be happy to share it with you.

Final Quote from "To Move a Bureaucracy". 1. You must stop feeling guilty and insignificant. 2. You must stop apologizing for asking a bureaucrat to do a job you are paying him to do through your taxes. 3. You must stop begging for what you are entitled to by law. 4. You must **not be patient**. No matter how often you are told to please be patient "we're doing everything we can" remember that patience never moved a bureaucracy —

only impatience works. 5. You must not accept the old excuses: "there isn't any money"; "we need more time"; "we've made a lot of progress", etc. 6. You must stop whispering while everyone else is shouting. 7. Action — **Do not be afraid to complain. . . to their superiors, to your legislators, the Mayor, Alderman, Governor, newspaper, radio or other press media**. 8. You must use mass action — get your education committee in your local chapter active.

Report on regional conference on Educating and Planning or The Child with Handicapping Conditions sponsored by the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., together with N.Y. State Education Department, Division for Handicapped Children, held at State University of New Paltz on January 21.

Your education chairman was an "understudy" for Jerry Weingold on a lively panel "Involving Parents in Planning and Decision Making". There were many other AHRC members in attendance at this regional meeting, and some on panels; Mrs. Ernest Messier (Rensselaer Chapter) was on a panel called "Monitoring Services 'Who's Watching the Store'" and Thomas Goodman (Onondaga County Chapter) was on a panel "Financing Special Education". As soon as we get transcripts of all the workshops, we will share them with you through this column.

Publications of Interest: "Families Play to Grow" — a program of play, fitness and fun, kit consists of "Family Play Manual, Family Play Calendar, "I'm a Winner Chart and 10 Family Play Guides to favorite sports and games Free. It is a step by step guide to teaching sports to the handicapped. Send for this free kit by writing to: **Closer Look**, Box no. 1492, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Recommended. "Cooking Activities for the Retarded Child" Kahan, Ellen House, Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tenn., 1974, 48 pages \$2.50 — begins with suggestions for parents and teachers — then provides recipes in which pictorial symbols substitute for written instructions.

Magazine — Exceptional Parent, Subscription Dept., 84, P.O. Box 964, Manchester, N.Y. 03105, \$10.00 for one year — mention AHRC when you subscribe — State Office gets \$2.00 from every subscription. Excellent articles on wide range of subjects — testing, curriculum, siblings, **Cheerful News** — As seen in "Closer Look" Predictions of things to come in special education from a new report based on a study conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE, Inc.). . . due process procedures will be **guaranteed** to all exceptional children in public school by 1980; 60 per cent of public school teachers will practice individualized prescriptive teaching by 1987.

To all chapters: Have you set up an education committee yet? Send in the name of your Education Chairman to the State Office, so that he or she can receive updated information from our regional representatives.

To Newsletter Editors: Please set up a local Education Committee column in your newsletter to give information to your members who have children in the public school, so they can share their local school problems.

Remember — we can move bureaucracies — and we can have an **impact on school districts**, and help make those predictions cited above come true.

By Betty Pendler

'Plato had a word for it'

Some quotes from this excellent article: We hope that the right to education concept is not merely a semantic Titanic, doomed before it sails . . . the right to education should serve merely as a well-fitted key to the lock of Pandora's box. . . Right to Education is an old concept. Right to Education is really the keystone of the dignity of man. . . America's rapidly changing attitudes. . . people are asserting their rights — litigation — is not a substitute for all previous forms of social action; it is, rather a major addition. Education for many years was intended to serve an elite minority; it was considered a means for attaining the "good life" for the selected few — recall Plato's argument — and recall how Plato excluded the handicapped from participation in the "good life" in his Republic: "The offspring of the inferior, or of the better, when they chance to be deformed, will be put away in some mysterious unknown place, as they should be" (Jowett, 1888, pp 153-154). It has been said over and over again that all of the Western philosophy has been a series of footnotes to Plato, and certainly, in education, this has been the case. . . but things are changing; special education is no longer immune to the accountability measures that are being applied to other sectors of education; parents want action; and they want it now. New definition of education. . . it is our obligation to look at education as a continuous process of developing life skills. . . and many agencies of education in society are engaged in this continuous process. The right to

education, if it is implemented, will bring into special education orbit those children and adolescents who were not previously considered to have the necessary academic potential — they were invisible, because people refused to see them like Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man".

The right to education will also bring into the orbit of special education the families who must be involved not only as supplementary helpers to teachers, but as participants in every step of the educational decision making process. . . finally the special educators have a special obligation to direct the attention of others to: the zero reject model which seeks to provide appropriate education for every child. . . the essential requirement that all educators, all educational systems, must deliver high quality services to all exceptional children. . . the reality that, even in times of budgetary constriction, more funds than ever will be needed to safeguard each child's right to education.

If we can accomplish this refocusing, we may at last bring the exceptional children out from Plato's "mysterious unknown place". There is no question that our educational efforts for handicapped individuals are better today than before the right to education decisions, better than in 19th century America, better than in Plato's time, but the quest now is whether our educational efforts and our educational achievements are good enough for the time in which we find ourselves.

Right on! we parents say.

New faces for Cayuga



New Comprehensive Training Center

A new face, name, and perhaps even new personality could appropriately describe significant events which have occurred at the Cayuga County Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

Since January 27th of this year, the Chapter has been in its new facility sharing its space with the United Cerebral Palsy Clinic of Cayuga County, a facility built by the county on property owned by the Chapter and the State Association. The ARC program will now be available in an aura of excitement, activity and innovation to over 300 clients in total. Dedication dates have yet not been announced.

On a tragic day in July 1974, the building which was to house the Cayuga Chapter's own recycling center burned to the ground. However, within six months and on January of this year, 11,367 sq. feet of new production site was leased from Crown Tire Inc. of Auburn, N.Y. In a matter of one week to ten days the Advanced Recycling Center commenced operation with eventual recycling of glass, cardboard and plastic products along with other scrap and industrial salvaging jobs.

Not content with this, this year the Chapter purchased yet another hostel in addition to Independence House opened in 1973. Called North Hall, it should be opened by the time Our Children's Voice reaches our readers.

The release of Cayuga County says "The year 1975 has already revealed many exciting future plans for the Cayuga County ARC. In terms of further expansion, the Chapter has several additional and innovative plans which will hopefully be implemented in the Spring."

We wait with eager anticipation for more exciting events.



At work in the Center

Mental Retardation:

Dr. Howard W. Potter, one time president of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and an outstanding figure in the field of mental retardation, was good enough to send us a reprint from The Psychiatric Quarterly of July 1965 of the article with the above title.

Dr. Potter points out, in this article, that the position that mental retardation is "an area of special interest in psychiatry" was tenable five or six decades ago but is no longer valid. He points out the diminishing interest of psychiatrists in the field of mental retardation in the following facts.

1. The American Psychiatric Association Section on Mental Deficiency has been replaced by a section on Child Psychiatry.

2. The programs of the 1963 and 1964 meetings of the American Psychiatric Association comprise 472 papers and 74 panel discussions. Three papers and no panel discussions were concerned with mental retardation.

3. In the last six volumes (1965) of the American Journal of Psychiatry there were but 5 articles on mental retardation.

4. The report of the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health largely ignored mental retardation.

5. Psychiatrists represent but 4.5 per cent of the membership of the American Association on Mental Deficiency. 40 years ago they accounted for 43 per cent of its membership.

6. Of 98 state schools and hospitals for the mentally retarded in the United States only 44 are administered by physicians who are members of the American Psychiatric Association.

7. Less than 1 per cent of Certified Psychiatrists in the United States are attached to the staff of state schools, and nearly half of these are in the relatively inactive consultant basis.

8. In special clinics for the mentally retarded, psychiatrists are credited with but 6 per cent of the professional service man hours.

9. Only 5.5 per cent of the patients seen in 1100 psychiatric clinics were mentally retarded and the only service rendered to 90 per cent of these was a brief diagnostic work-up.

He reviews, however, the great contributions made by psychiatrists to the field of mental deficiency pointing out, that in 1876, all 8 charter members of the American Association on Mental Deficiency were psychiatrists.

He reviews the work of the eminent neuropathologist in the Paris school who concludes that, at the turn of the 20th Century and for the next decade or so, psychiatrists had a dominant and leading role in mental deficiency. "But, in the span of only 20 years (1910-1930), a radical shift of psychiatric interest away from mental deficiency occurred." This, he said, was due to three forces: Goddard's introduction of the Binet Test in America in 1908, Brill's introduction of psychoanalysis to American psychiatry in the same year and in 1911 Davenport's publishing his monograph, "Heredity in Relation to Eugenics."

He deplores the fact that the American modern psychiatrist, by virtue of his training and indoctrination, "is far more of a behavioral scientist than a medical scientist". Most modern American psychiatrists have had minimal instruction in mental retardation and must tend to entertain a defect position about all retardation. That 75 or 80 per cent of all retardation is mild retardation, that mildly retarded children have nothing in common with seriously retarded children, but much in common with normal children, has escaped them. Thus, it is, that the modern psychiatrist by virtue of his bias, born out of ignorance and prejudice, is not included to be of service to the mentally retarded. Nevertheless, he feels strongly and demonstrates this by studies that there are many aspects of mental retardation that need further scrutiny from the modern psychiatrist. Such studies show that many mildly retarded young children, transplanted from seriously deprived and disorganized homes to homes providing a favorable climate, turn out to be reasonably normal adolescents and adults, intellectually, as well as otherwise. They show that, not only do most of the mildly retarded make excellent social adjustments in adult life, but that, in some, tested intelligence has risen

Cinderella of psychiatry

to well within normal ranges. Intensive psychotherapy, in some cases of mental retardation, results in striking improvement of intellectual functioning.

Finally, he urges departments of psychiatry and departments of pediatrics in every medical school to collaborate on a course of mental retardation for third and/or fourth year medical students.

He further urges that all residents in psychiatry be oriented in the overall nature and problems of retardation including acceptable modalities of treatment, care, education, habilitation. He suggests that all residents have full responsibility, under supervision, and carry one or more mentally retarded persons and their families in their treatment case loads.

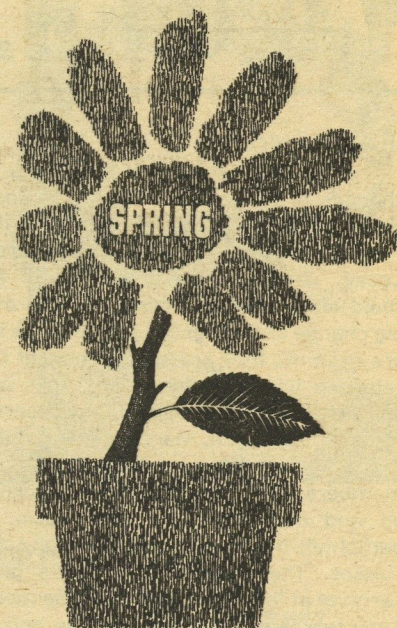
Every university medical center must provide clinical facilities for the retarded with multi-disciplinary professional staff so that senior medical students and residents in psychiatry may have opportunities for supervised clinical practice with retarded children and adults.

The institutions should, and must, offer demonstration clinics specially devised for medical students and residents in psychiatry and properly planned, guided, and supervised clinical clerkships for senior medical students.

He urges an intensive one year residency training program in mental retardation, and finally it should be time to set up a conference on education in mental retardation (this is in 1965, we must remember).

He argues eloquently that modern psychiatry can play a meaningful role in mental retardation.

We wonder if this message can ever reach modern psychiatrists. Is there enough energy and interest in the reawakening of modern psychiatry to a possible role in mental retardation? And, who is to do this? These are all questions that must be answered if, indeed, the position of the Council of the American Psychiatric Association that "mental retardation is an area of special interest in psychiatry" would have real meaning.



Rensselaer joins plan

Rensselaer county became the first county in the state to enter into a unified services plan for the delivery of services to the mentally disabled with formal signing of the state-local agreement here recently.

New York State will contribute about \$1.4 million to Rensselaer County in 1975 under the newly approved plan. The county will provide about \$240,000 as its share. The plan is written to cover a five year period.

Under the Unified Services Plan, state and county, on a rather complicated formula, share the cost of local services as well as the cost of maintaining and training persons committed to the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene serving that county.

Rockland County has also had its plan approved and, as of this writing, probably has been accepted into Unified Services.

Thus we have two of the more than 60 counties in New York State who have felt it advisable to join in the Unified Services program of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Humane judge authorizes surgery

A State Supreme Court justice, acting for a ward of the state who has been mentally retarded and deformed since he was born more than twenty-two years ago, authorized surgery which physicians said may enable the youth to live "a more normal life" outside the institution. Without the surgery it was said the youth would remain in an institution the rest of his life.

The decision of Justice Asch (Matter of Eugene Weberlist), published in the New York County, Supreme Court, Special Term, Part 2, became necessary because the youth apparently was abandoned by his parents more than five years ago. His parents had placed Eugene in Willowbrook State School in 1953 when he was little more than a year old, and remained in contact with the school until 1969, but without ever visiting their son. Since that time the school has been unable to locate the parents.

Since Eugene's was not an emergency life-saving situation, the judge was faced with a hard decision but concluded that the Court "must decide what its ward would

choose if he were in a position to make a sound judgment.

"The court does not know what the future holds in store for its unfortunate ward — whether the treatment will be successful. But the most humble of us is entitled to the promise of the Declaration of Independence for 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'"

Eugene and a twin were born in 1952 in Lenox Hill Hospital. His twin died soon after birth. Eugene was severely retarded — hydrocephalic, with a cleft palate and webbed fingers and toes. He was expected to die but didn't. After twenty years at Willowbrook, Eugene was transferred to Manhattan Developmental Services in 1973. He is well behaved, cooperative and understands simple commands, but cannot speak intelligibly.

A plastic surgery unit at New York University last January stated that treatment proposed for Eugene was feasible, necessary and could be beneficial. It would include dental work, surgery on his hands, cleft palate and jaw and intracranial surgery for facial restoration.



Attending ceremonies at which Rensselaer County became the first in the state to adopt a unified services plan for services to the mentally disabled are, left to right, Dr. Alan D. Miller, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene; Elinor Pattison, past president of the Rensselaer County ARC Chapter; County Executive William Murphy; Cheryl Messier, a county resident; Dr. Frederick Morgenstern, county director of mental hygiene; Joseph Manupella, county legislator, and Ara Baligian, designer and administrator of the plan.

Y.O.U.T.H. Group News

For and About our Y.O.U.T.H.
ARC Chapters around the state

NIAGARA YOUTH

The month of February brought a few changes to Niagara YOUTH. The major change was the resignation of their President. The Vice President, Dorothy Locey, assumed leadership until they could elect another President. The other big change in their group is that since they are so small, they are asking some of their retarded friends between the ages of 13 and 25 to help out. They feel they deserve a voice in their work. March is going to be a big month as they are pushing for new members. They plan to get posters printed up and distributed all over town and pamphlets made up for various high school classes. Their group will hold a penny carnival at the end of April to raise money. They feel that this is inexpensive and will attract a lot of people. They help out at the PAT meetings and at the workshop meetings each month. For February they painted murals with their retarded friends while their parents held their meeting. As a future project a Birthday Club is being organized where YOUTH members send Birthday cards to the retarded with whom they work. Congratulations Niagara YOUTH on a creative and varied program!

SULLIVAN COUNTY ARC

This is one of our newest State YOUTH groups. Sullivan County started in November with about 14 members and began their first project in December. They helped sell ceramic items made by the clients from Sullivan Industries at the Art Society Craft Fair at Sullivan County Community College. Christmas rolled around and they organized a Christmas Party for the clients of Sullivan Industries. With the help of the local merchants they were able to give gifts to the clients. Entertainment was furnished by two Guitarists from Sullivan County Community College, a skit by some YOUTH members, and Santa Claus handing out the gifts. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was a great success. The town of Fallsburgh sponsored a Snow Festival to benefit the Sullivan County Chapter ARC. This was held on January 18th and 19th. A drawing was the main event in which the YOUTH group engaged. They sold approximately \$265.00 worth of tickets and helped the festival to cut down confusion. This year's group is giving Valentine's Day cards to the children at the ARC School and looking forward to March as membership month, fund raising events, and helping their retarded friends.

SMITHTOWN JR. AUXILIARY

The Smithtown Jr. Auxiliary for the help of retarded children held their second annual "Little Fashion Show" on Sunday, November 3, at St. Joseph's Church in Kings Park. The theme of the show was "Don't Watch Us Grow, Come Grow With Us." Their young retarded friends (boys and girls) modelled the fashions, each accompanied by a counselor. There were twenty models, starting from early intervention babies right up to pre-teenagers. The children looked adorable and the audience loved watching them. Most of the children proved to be real "hams", but the one who captured everyone's heart was the baby who slept in her counselor's arms throughout her entire performance. The lovely fashions were supplied by "Polly's" of Huntington. After the show drawings and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Smithtown Auxiliary would like to thank everyone who gave much time and effort to make the show a huge success.

NORTHERN BROOKHAVEN, JUNIOR AUXILIARY — SUFFOLK COUNTY

Northern Brookhaven, Junior ARC has been very busy lately. They have decided to incorporate the older retarded people of their community into their group as regular YOUTH members. They had a meeting with six of their group as regular YOUTH members. They had a meeting with six of their retarded friends, explained to them their intentions, stressing that no one knows what programs they want more than themselves. The meeting held at a member's home was very successful. The result was a list of over 25 new projects and ideas to try and an addition of 6 members to the group who know the needs of many of the retarded people in the area. This is a step forward in the normalization of retarded people by making them actual YOUTH members rather than keeping them apart on an Advisory Board. Northern Brookhaven's new members are now hard at work on planning and carrying out projects not only for themselves and for the younger children of the community, but for the group as a whole. What a great idea!

Northern Brookhaven plans events on a weekly basis since they have meetings every Tuesday to plan the events for the coming week. On a regular basis they take a group of friends to watch basketball games at local high schools on Friday nights. Sunday is Northern Brookhaven's regular day for bowling with their older friends and a field trip somewhere in the community. Saturdays are usually reserved for large scale events like trips to the city, to the museum or the Zoo or for all day events such as a Cook-out at a local camp ground.

Tom asks.....

Have you looked for a job for this summer? Don't forget, Camp Catskill. Write to me in the State Office for applications.

Did you get a copy of the first issue of the State YOUTH Newspaper? If not, have your President send Kirk Lewis a list of all Chapter members and addresses and you'll receive the dynamite second issue of "The New Yarc-er".

Has your group ordered sweatshirts with the YOUTH slogan imprint? There are still a few left, so order from me soon!

Do You know that I tried to give YOUTH the opportunity to have a lapel or collar pin designed especially for us? So far only 4 groups responded to my request for your thoughts on the idea. Therefore, I am "stuck" without an answer to the pin salesman.

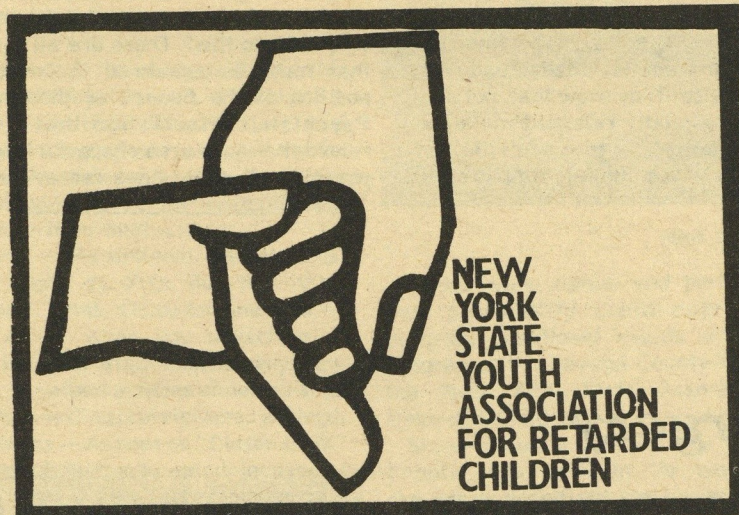
Is your group planning to attend the 1975 YOUTH Convention? It will be held on a College Campus on Long Island from August 14th-17th!

Did you see a copy of the newly revised State YOUTH By-laws? Your President should have a copy. I can send more, on request.

Have you heard the State YOUTH Board will soon come out with an organizing manual and brochure? Watch for more announcements on this in "The New Yarc-er".

What would you think of a booklet on colleges where there are courses of study

State Y.O.U.T.H. Symbol

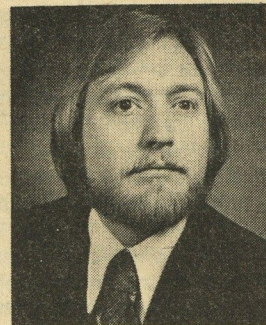


The new State Y.O.U.T.H. Symbol, a child holding an adult's hand in the shape of New York State, was accepted by the State Y.O.U.T.H. Board at their January meeting. Now, all State Y.O.U.T.H. literature will have an official symbol along with the familiar NYS-ARC triangle. Thanks goes to Monroe County's Mr. G. J. Winterkorn for submitting this great design.

HOPE JR. AUXILIARY, SUFFOLK COUNTY

H.O.P.E. is fund raising for the NYS-ARC Scholarship Awards and for Suffolk Special Olympics. They are going to raise money by sponsoring a faculty - varsity basketball team in a local school. They are also going to have cake sales, a car wash and a flea market. This group has done much in the past to help their retarded friends and they feel fortunate that they've had the money to be able to do these things. They hope in the future to have more of the same luck.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)



on different areas of M.R.? It would be a great help to those of you thinking of choosing a campus. Right? Well, Sue Dickerson, State YOUTH Secretary, is organizing one right now!

Suffolk Hosts Y.O.U.T.H.

The Suffolk County AHRC Headquarters was the site of the first annual Suffolk YOUTH Conference on January 25, and 26. The conference which was sponsored by the Suffolk County YOUTH Council was open to all Suffolk County Junior Auxiliary members and nearly 100 Juniors attended for the weekend. The delegates came from all areas of Suffolk County and groups of ARC Youth members attended from Schenectady and Queens.

The main events of the first day of the conference were workshops. These included Workshops on Special Olympics conducted by Mrs. Ellen Glasser of the Special Olympics Committee, Recreation by Gerald Lawlor of Brookhaven, Special Education by Joseph Dempsey, Special Education Teacher, and Fund Raising by Tom McCarley, New York State ARC, YOUTH Coordinator.

A General Business session followed the Workshops during which teams discussed YOUTH projects and forthcoming projects such as the New York State Convention to be held in Suffolk County. Delegates were urged to get involved in the projects by signing up for committees. Meals were supervised by Miss Robin Nelson of the Deer Park Junior Auxiliary. Following lunch on the first day of the conference more Workshops were held. Frederick Lewis of Suffolk AHRC spoke on Vocational Training Programs, Jack Bryant conducted a Workshop on Speech and Hearing. The AHRC School Program was discussed and explained by Mrs. Elysa Floyd and an Early Intervention Workshop was conducted by Program Coordinator, Dr. Michael Osarchuk.

The highlight of Saturday evening was a dance held for the Trainees of the Suffolk Workshop. Many more activities were carried out through the two-day conference. Suffolk County is to be congratulated for an outstanding program and their devotion to learning about all aspects of the field of Mental Retardation. Special acknowledgement goes to Jay Klein, Robin Nelson and Joe Wykowski for a lot of work resulting in a successful event.

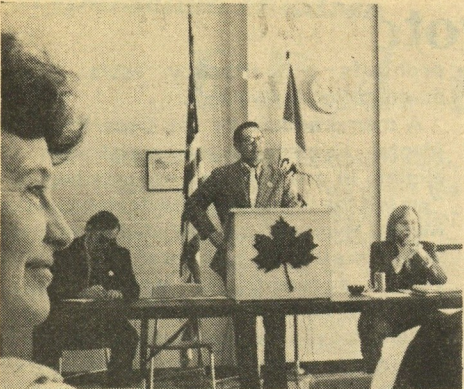
Chautauqua 'Fills Gap'

We recommend to all our readers the pamphlet, "Filling the Gap", published by our Chautauqua County Chapter, 337 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York.

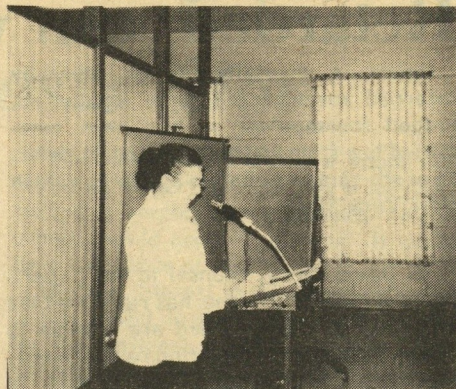
Beginning with why the Chapter was founded and what it is trying to do through its preschool program, its workshop, its hostel, its vocational training, public education, day school, recreation, and its future needs, it is a most attractive brochure that could well serve as a model for other Chapters. We highly recommend it.



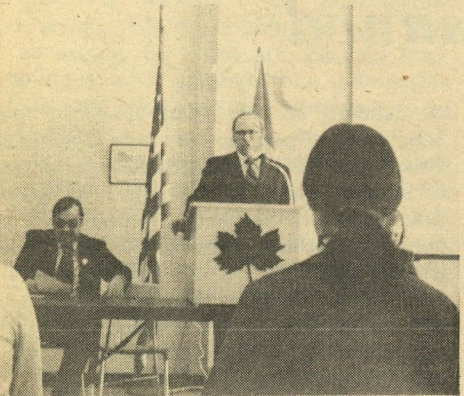
Business session begins: Mrs. Kerry Lynn Kito, Suffolk County Y.O.U.T.H. Advisor listens while Suffolk County Y.O.U.T.H. president Jay Klein calls the general business session to order during the two day Suffolk County Y.O.U.T.H. Conference held at A.H.R.C. headquarters in Hauppauge January 25 and 26.



John Beynart, regional vice president opens Northeast Regional Meeting. Flanked by Jack Bernstein and Tom McCarley. The face on the left is that of Henrietta Messier of Rensselaer.



Winifred Rabbitt opens session.



John W. Bertrand addresses Northeast Regional Conference.



Lillian Courteau, former president Monroe County Chapter, John Regan, executive director and his lovely secretary Nancy at the Rochester meeting.

Hostels now at fifty

The number of community homes for the mentally retarded established under the hostel program recently reached 50, according to the Department of Mental Hygiene. A goal of 20 new facilities in the present fiscal year is likely. Since the beginning of the fiscal year in April 1974, 13 new contracts have been made with local sponsors to operate small group homes for retarded adults with up to 50 per cent state financial support.

Though hostel legislation allows for new construction or purchase of facilities, most recent hostels have been set up under a leasing arrangement. Rent paid by the sponsoring agency may be included in the aidable operating expenses of the program.

The most recently established hostels are located in Valley Stream, L.I., Yonkers, Johnstown, Rochester, Miller, Hempstead, Schenectady, Watertown, Auburn, Jamestown, Amsterdam, Fulton and Altamont.

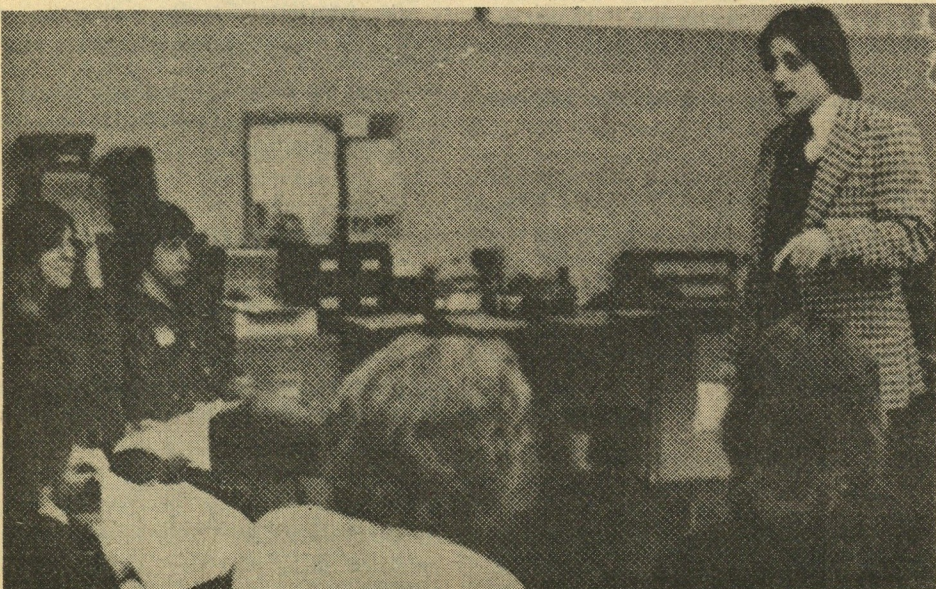
Facilities range from part of a floor of a modern high-rise apartment complex in Rochester to a former convent building in Schenectady. Capacities range from 9 to

24. Most are designed for about 10 to 12. The total number of hostel accommodations under this particular residence program is now 630.

Sponsoring local agencies have often been chapters of the State Association. Lately, however, a number of other organizations have also taken an interest and become sponsors.

Of the 13 latest facilities, the one in Watertown represents the 5th hostel to be established by the Jefferson County Chapter of the Association. The other agencies are: Catholic Charities, Valley Stream; Westchester ARC, Yonkers; Fulton ARC, Johnstown; Monroe in Rochester; St. Charles Hospital, Maryhaven in Miller; Nassau County Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, Hempstead; Living Resources Corp., Schenectady; Cayuga ARC, Auburn; Chautauqua ARC, Jamestown; Montgomery ARC, Amsterdam; Oswego Opportunities, Inc., Fulton and Helderberg House, Inc., Altamont.

At Suffolk Y.O.U.T.H. Conference



Getting insight into early intervention: Dr. Michael Osarchuk, Coordinator of early intervention discusses the need for early intervention classes and the philosophy behind starting programs for infants. The workshop was one of four held January 25 at the Suffolk County Y.O.U.T.H. Conference. Story Page 12

Dismissal upheld

The State's highest Court has upheld the dismissal of an attendant charged with assaulting a patient at Sunmount State School, an institution for the mentally retarded. In December the Court of Appeals reversed the lower Court ruling reducing the penalties against Roger G. Smart, the attendant, from dismissal to five days suspension without pay. The Court's ruling reinstated the dismissal ordered by Dr. Richard L. Francis, Director of the school at Tupper Lake in Franklin County.

In December 1970, Smart was charged with assaulting a resident. He elected to be tried on the misconduct charges under the disciplinary provisions of the contract between the state and the Civil Service Employees Association.

The hearing officer found him guilty of the charge and recommended the five-day suspension, but the director of the school increased the penalty to dismissal, saying he did so because Smart had performed an act resulting in physical harm to a resident.

Smart went to Court to fight the dismissal, and in his first round in a Special Term, the judge overruled the dismissal. Section 27 of the State CSEA agreement says, in part, that the hearing officer's recommendations on punishment shall not be exceeded without good reason. Although the Appellate Division affirmed the ruling without opinion, Justice Louis M. Greenblott, in a dissenting opinion, voted to uphold the director's determination. This was not on technical charge, he said. The misconduct consisted of a serious act of physical abuse of a mentally retarded resident.

The State Association for Retarded Children always joined with the Attorney General in these actions. We congratulate him on this result.

Neighbors support group home

A proposal to purchase a brownstone, to be used by the Manhattan Developmental Center as a group home for the retarded, received unanimous support from the West Village Community at a recent public hearing.

Since early summer, Patricia Bertrand, Chief of Community Services at the Center, has been working with members of the community planning board on the issue of a group home for 12 moderately retarded adolescents who are now at State developmental centers.

Concern was voiced by community board members. Some believed that the removal of another piece of property from the tax rolls was undesirable. Others expressed concern about integrating the retarded into community living.

At the public hearing held at Judson Memorial Church, Miss Bertrand outlined the proposal to the committee and more than 100 village residents. Other speakers in favor of the proposed group included area business men; block association leaders; representatives from St. Luke's Parish and School, St. Veronica's, Washington Square Methodist Church, and Judson Memorial; residents of West 4th Street, local political leaders and concerned citizens.

"I was thoroughly overwhelmed by the community's response and by their keen understanding and support of a home for the retarded who need an opportunity to live a more normal life," Miss Bertrand said.



I. Joseph Harris

Harris named to N.Y.C. post

Joseph Harris, formerly executive director of New York City, Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children has become director of the New York City Bureau of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.

Mr. Harris served as chief executive of the City Chapter for five years after having previously served as director of education and assistant executive director.

A licensed teacher and certified social worker, he worked previously for New York City as Director of the Office of Economic Opportunities, Head Start Program. A graduate of City College of New York, Mr. Harris is a member of the American Association of Mental Deficiency. Born in Vienna, he now lives in Manhattan.

All of us wish Mr. Harris the greatest success in his new position. Good luck Joe.

150 bed home criticized

A plan of the Solomon T. Scharf Nursing Home organization, to establish a 150 bed residence for the mentally retarded in Huntington, L.I., was sharply criticized by Mr. Robert M. Sansone, executive director of the Suffolk County Chapter and Helen Kaplan, executive director of the Nassau County Chapter.

Mr. Sansone termed the proprietary operation "a mini-institution" and called, instead, for a system of small hostels serving 8-10 mentally retarded adults located throughout the county. Mr. Sansone criticized the size, the cost and what he called "program inadequacy" of the plan to convert the former 88-bed Elmwood General Hospital in Huntington to serve 150 residents of the Suffolk Developmental Center in Melville (formerly Suffolk State School).

"A 150-bed 'home' for those who feel and sense what a home ought to be, or can be taught to do so, is simply not a home."

Mr. Sansone wrote a 10 page report - letter to New York State Department of Mental Hygiene Commissioner, Dr. Lawrence Kolb. He said that the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, which currently serves more than 700 mentally retarded children and adults in daily programs, would provide residential services with comprehensive day programs of much greater benefit to the mentally retarded for half the cost of the Scharf organization.

Both he and Mrs. Kaplan also expressed their fears that the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, which has been criticized for its indiscriminate release of former mental patients from state institutions without proper community after care facilities, was about to embark on a similar course with respect to the mentally retarded.



Cabbies aid retarded

Cabbies help retarded in Dutchess County. Vets Cabs donate fares to Dutchess County Chapter.

Funds frozen until July

The State Department of Mental Hygiene has imposed a freeze on all new local programs until July 1st.

"As a result of considerable program growth," wrote Anthony Spellman, M.D., Deputy Commissioner, "and the fiscal situations in 1975 which I expect will be rather stringent, I can no longer be sure that the Legislature will appropriate sufficient funds to meet all our requests for program expansion. I have, therefore, mandated that start up dates of new programs shall be after July 1st — by which time we will have a clear picture of the funds available for expenditure in each county. This will prevent new programs from starting and subsequently dying on the vine for lack of state reimbursement."

For 1974-1975, Dr. Spellman imposed a state aid ceiling on each county which was less than the state aid request and less than the total approved program would justify based on the fact that counties rarely spend their budgeted figures. Since establishing this ceiling in October,

however, he has been authorized to use some of this year's state aid savings generated in 1973 - 1974. This flexibility allows him to raise the ceiling where it could be demonstrated that maintaining it at the present level would be damaging to programs.

In commenting on these freezes Mr. Weingold wrote to Dr. Spellman, "Since a small part of the total appropriation for local services is being used for Mental Retardation, I do not see the rationale for this regarding retardation, if indeed, Budget will permit you to use for mental retardation, some of the funds not spent on mental health services."

Whatever the rationale may be for limiting expansion in mental health to July 1st, Mr. Weingold stated, should not exist for mental retardation.

Anyone wishing to comment on this as another reason for getting out of the Department of Mental Hygiene where programs for the mentally retarded are controlled by considerations completely extraneous to this disability?

To label or not to label

The labels that society places on millions of children are often more harmful than helpful, according to a report issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Such labels as "handicapped", "low-income", "retarded", "Culturally disadvantaged", "delinquent", "slow learner" or "hearing-impaired" may make it easier for a teacher or social worker to excuse the inability to help a child, it said. But these simplified labels often mask real needs that children have.

The report cited these hypothetical cases:

Jane shows up on summary school records and state reports as "mentally retarded - educable." What isn't reported is that Jane cannot read, that she is attractive and pleasant, that she needs dental care and that she is very good with

children and has held a child-care job with a family for five years.

No record of services needed, John shows up in similar reports as emotionally disturbed. What isn't recorded is that his father is an alcoholic who tyrannized his home for years. Nor is it recorded that John makes movies of remarkable perceptiveness.

The report, prepared for HEW by a Vanderbilt University Team headed by psychologist Nicholas Hobbs, said a label, "can blight the life of a child, reduce opportunity, diminish his confidence and self esteem, alienate him from others, nurture a meanness of spirit and make him less a person than he could become."

And if not labeled, will the report include all the descriptive material so aptly described in this article? We welcome reader participation in this interesting game.

Retarded can vote

Unless a mentally ill or mentally retarded resident has been legally adjudged incompetent or has been committed to a state institution by court order, he or she remains eligible by law to vote in New York State.

E. David Wiley, counsel to the Department of Mental Hygiene, has ruled that the mentally ill and retarded are eligible to vote if they meet such voting requirements as American citizenship, are at least 18 years of age, and reside in the district in which they wish to vote.

The federal Voting Rights Act of 1970

prohibits all literacy tests as a qualification for voting.

A memorandum by the Department of Mental Hygiene urged registration of eligible ill and retarded patients because "we felt the article on patients rights in the Mental Hygiene Law obligated us at least to inform all of our patients of their right to vote", according to Harold Wolfe, Associate Commissioner.

"We also did it because of a law which is designed to guarantee a civil right or civil liberty is meaningless and may in fact be violated if the agency does not take action to make that provision of the law known to its clients," Wolfe added.

Scholarships planned

The 1975 State YOUTH Scholarship should by now be in the hands of all local presidents. John Dempsey, Central Region Vice President from Elmira Heights, drafted the new scholarship form as Chairman of the State YOUTH Scholarship and Awards Committee. The two \$250.00 scholarships are open to students in any year of college who have been members of an affiliated YOUTH chapter for one year. The chapter must be in good standing with YOUTH NYS-ARC.

For chapters to be considered "in good standing", they must have reaffiliated via the reaffiliation form, included correct amount of dues, and have participated in the State Scholarship Fund Raising effort

or donated no less than \$50.00 to the Scholarship Fund. So far, only Chemung County and Northern Brookhaven Chapter of Suffolk County are eligible. The State Board hopes to increase the amount or the number of scholarships for this year, but without support, this will be impossible.

Last year's winners were Anne Hession of Schenectady, who attends Dowling College, and Lisa Nuzzo of Newburgh, who attends Mount Saint Mary's College.

Applications can be received from and should be sent to: Tom McCarley, State YOUTH Coordinator, NYS-ARC Office, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010. Scholarship deadline is May 15, 1975, to which the committee will strictly adhere.

Consent Decree

Though it was expected that a Consent Decree would be signed by Governor Wilson before he left office, and the signing of such a decree was promised by Governor Carey, there is no such "Consent Decree" yet. After first informing Mr. Wilson's administration that he had "no objection" to Mr. Wilson signing the Court Decree, Governor Carey later refused to state that he would send a letter to Federal Judge Orin G. Judd saying he would sign it.

According to Mr. Mathew Nimetz, Transition Director, Mr. Carey promised, after his own staff review, he would reach a decision in his first fifteen days in office as to whether or not he would sign the Decree.

Many of the reforms ordered by Judge Judd on April 10, 1973 still remain to be carried out. While nurses have been hired, more than 100 are foreign born with many having difficulty communicating in English. Midlevel supervisors for wards are woefully short. Plaintiffs in the suit have been the New York State Association for Retarded Children, the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, Willowbrook Chapter, and a number of parents.

Decree, Decree, who has the Decree?

Treatment decision

On November 8th, the U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld an Alabama district court's ruling that residents of public institutions for the mentally ill and mentally retarded have a Constitutional right to treatment. A class action suit was originally filed in October 1970 on behalf of the mentally ill residents at Bryce Hospital. The suit was later amended and the class expanded to include mentally retarded residents at Partlow State School and Hospital and Searcy State Hospital, Alabama's other state mental hospital. In mid 1972, the Federal District Court for Alabama ruled that the Constitutional rights of Partlow residents were being denied and ordered state mental health officials to implement a series of minimum habilitation standards at the institution.

Subsequently, Alabama Governor, George C. Wallace, and the State Mental Health Board appeals the court's decision.

The Appellate Court's ruling relied heavily on its recent decision in the case of Donaldson vs. O'Connor in which it was held that the Federal Constitutional right to treatment was an absolute right and the issue was foreclosed.

SOAR

Helping Hands

In California, mentally retarded young ladies have been trained to work with schizophrenic children. The retarded girls spent hours cuddling these youngsters who need love and affection more than anything else.

Commenting on the project, Carolyn Vash, chief deputy director of the Rehabilitation, said: "Who knows? These retarded girls may have better cosmic reasons to be here on earth than any of us." From the Newsletter, The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Jan. 1975.

SYSTEM OF ADVOCACY FOR THE RETARDED

F.D.A. tests diet

The Food and Drug Administration, after discounting for almost two years the contention of a California pediatrician that hyperactivity and learning disability in children can be triggered by artificial food flavors and colors, is now helping to test the validity of his approach.

Since 1973, Dr. Ben J. Feingold of the Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco, has treated hundreds of hyperkinetic children on a special diet free of foods containing synthetic flavors and colors. He maintains that the diet has enabled about 50 per cent of his patients to return to normal - or near-normal behavior. Within a month, he says, they can usually be taken off powerful tranquilizers and amphetamine stimulants that have been used to control their wild behavior.

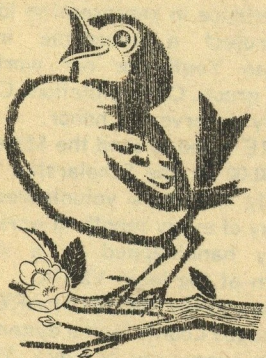
The 74 year old pediatrician has complained, that since he first wrote of his findings, the Food and Drug Administration has been "like a brick wall, giving me no support, only discouragement as though they were representatives of the food industry, rather than a government agency."

"It is true that at first we were skeptical," concedes Richard Ronk, who is head of the agency's Department of Color Additives. "Dr. Feingold did not have statistical data; he had only his clinical observations, testimonials, if you will, to back his claims."



Wayne County

A Wayne County pre-schooler uses the Chapter's new gross motor equipment.



Genetic Counsel Addition

We are informed by Dr. Cameron F. McRae, Commissioner of Health of Broome County, that genetic counseling is also available in Binghamton at the Broome Developmental Center under Dr. Sathipalan. He also points out the facility that we mentioned upstate must be the Albany Medical Center since the Upstate Medical Center is in Syracuse.

He adds, in a letter dated February 4, 1975 that the family of a PKU patient might be eligible for aid in paying for the special diet even if not eligible for medical assistance. The local health department should be consulted on this. If you are in a county without a health department, consult the public health nursing service.

Thank you Dr. McRae.

Grant's employs retarded

A 1974 survey of the mentally retarded performance as employees at W. T. Grant Company shows that their record is one of good to excellent. As of October 1, 1974, 121 mentally retarded persons were employed by the Grant Stores, 63 of them in food service (dish washers, bus boys, kitchen helpers, waitresses and cooks); 26 custodial utilities; 13 stock room helpers; 1

stock room manager; 8 sales clerks; 3 mail clerks; and 7 merchandise markers. Performance rating showed that 14 percent were rated excellent, 71 percent good, 14 percent fair and only 1 poor.

93 Grant stores are now employing mentally retarded but 1,059 were never contacted by any of the agencies serving the mentally retarded.

"Now we admit that there might certainly be something to it, but a lot more testing is needed," he continued. "I personally would hope it was true. It would help thousands of kids."

The new interest in Dr. Feingold's data is due, in part, to preliminary study funded by the National Institute of Education, conducted in Boston by Dr. Keith Connors, who has been working with hyperkinetic children since 1960. He tested 10 to 12 children, who at different times received both the K-P diet and a control diet.

"Out of 10 children, eight underwent unexpected, dramatic changes, clearly in line with Dr. Feingold's study," he said. "I'm pretty much of a skeptic, but in my opinion, we definitely have something here." Dr. Feingold's diet known as the K-P Kaiser-Permanente diet eliminates two groups of food.

The first includes all food that contains artificial colors and flavors. The second consists of two vegetables, tomatoes and cucumbers, and many fruits, including strawberries, apples, cherries and oranges, that contain a substance, natural salicylates, that he thinks can induce hyperactivity.

According to Dr. Feingold, if a child shows good responses to the diet after four to six weeks, the foods in the second group may be slowly and experimentally re-introduced since the child may react adversely only to artificial colors and flavors.

Right upheld

A decision in the District Court of Minnesota, Fourth Division, the U.S. District Court, (Welsch vs. Likens) decree that persons civilly committed for reasons of mental retardation had a right to minimally adequate treatment designed to give each of them an opportunity to be cured or at least to improve his or her condition. The Court further decreed that the plaintiffs had a right to be placed in the least restrictive alternatives to hospitalization and that certain practices and conditions at Cambridge State Hospital constituted a violation of the plaintiffs rights under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the cruel and unusual punishment clause of the Eighth Amendment.

The case dealt with civilly committed mentally retarded residents and the Court stated —

"Almost all of the residents, no matter the degree or severity of their retardation, are capable of some growth and development if given adequate care and suitable treatment."



THE NEW STAMP

Last chance for the Stamp - see page 16

Task Force charges neglect

The Task Force Report of the New York State Association for Retarded Children charged that there are more than 7000 of the 22,000 persons in state institutions for the mentally retarded could be released in community facilities if facilities were available. It accused the Department of Mental Hygiene of "neglect, begin or

otherwise", and with a conspicuous failure to serve the mentally retarded.

"This state cannot continue its system of delivery of services to the retarded, especially the severely involved, through the existing Department of Mental Hygiene. The record does not warrant such an expression of confidence."

Parents aid parents

In September 1969, a volunteer group of parents of retarded children, all members of the New York City Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children, organized the Parents Assistance Committee. The aim of this committee is to give support to other parents of retarded children who need the help of a person - to - person approach. In order to reach these parents, the Parents Assistance Committee contacts professional people in the community to whom parents turn for advice. Such professionals are urged to refer the parent who has recently discovered that his child is retarded to a member of the Parents Assistance Committee.

During the first year of its existence, the parents Assistance Committee has given direct help to 50 families who were referred to them by doctors, nurses, social workers, school psychologists and others.

Experience has shown that this person-to-person approach, now operating in the Borough of Queens, can be extremely useful especially to parents who have recently been informed that their children are retarded. The advice that the members of the Committee give is based upon their own personal experiences.

Mental Hygiene frugal

The Department of Mental Hygiene, issued guidelines for Chapters 620 and 621, Laws of 1975 (these laws deal with full state aid for those who have been released from institutions after having been there for 5 years). We asked for 150 copies to distribute to our Chapters who are involved in these programs in one way or another.

We are happy to report that the Department of Mental Hygiene has shown a laudatory frugality in this respect with the following answer:

"I am sorry but due to the paper shortage and other conservation methods currently underway, no more copies of the material regarding Chapter 620 and 621 can be obtained."

We sympathize with Morris Cohen, Mental Hygiene Plans Analyst who had to sign this letter.

P.S. Perhaps this is the revitalized Department of Mental Hygiene the Governor spoke about.

Special Olympics

The Spring Statewide Workshop will be held at the State University College at Brockport on Saturday, April 12th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This meeting will mainly concern itself with plans for the State Meet and should be of special value for those people who will be acting as chaperones for the Meet. The 1975 International Meet will be another item on the agenda.

Deadline for registration materials for the 1975 State Meet will be May 23rd. The registration materials will be distributed and explained at the Spring Statewide Workshop.

The State Meet will be held June 13 - 15 in Brockport. The International Meet will be held August 7 - 11 in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Chautauqua 'Fills Gap'

We recommend to all our readers the pamphlet, "Filling the Gap", published by our Chautauqua County Chapter, 337 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, New York.

Beginning with why the Chapter was founded and what it is trying to do through its pre-school program, its workshop, its

hostel, its vocational training, public education, day school, recreation, and its future needs, it is a most attractive brochure that could well serve as a model for other Chapters. We highly recommend it.

Letters

Praise from Speaker

"Dear Mr. Weingold: Thank you for sending me a copy of your report. (Report of the Task Force on Mental Retardation). After reviewing it, I extend my congratulations to you on doing such a thorough job.

As you know, the problems faced by the mentally retarded and their families have been a primary concern of mine from the beginning of my tenure in the Assembly. It is my desire to alleviate as many of these problems as possible and toward that end I have introduced Assembly Bill A-2 which is a companion to S-11. A-2 is now under review by the Governmental Operations Committee." Sincerely, Stanley Steingut.

And that committee substituted the Conklin bill for Steingut's and referred it to Ways and Means. That's getting off the hook.

The following is a letter we have received and wish to share with our readers from Patricia Jamison, Westchester District Director of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers to our Betty Pender who participated in their conference.

"Dear Mr. Weingold: Thank you so much for sending Mrs. Pender to us on the 21st of January. Her contribution to the workshops on Involving Parents was warm, lively and informed and all of us are grateful for such dedicated and articulate people." Patricia Jamison, Westchester District Director.

By Helen Kaplan

The following is extracted from the Nassau Newsletter and is being offered in this issue as an editorial. It is written by Helen Kaplan, Executive Director of the Nassau County Chapter.

"The Department of Mental Hygiene wrote its own ugly history. If, as they have claimed, they had the knowledge and skill to change our institutions, then they are guilty of acting without conscience. If, as they often claim, their funds were insufficient then they are guilty of compounding the problem by the improvident use of the money they had. There is an old saying to the effect that as the game is played the rules emerge. Never has the need for new rules emerged more clearly than in our case for the retarded. We hope the legislature and the Governor will supply the remedy."

Same facts; new conclusion

On December 30th, 1974 Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, now Special Assistant to the Governor for Mental Health, issued what purported to be a report of the Mental Health Task Force discussed elsewhere in this issue. This report contained a four and one-half page subsection on Mental Retardation.

Dr. Cahill in effect repeated the hard facts of the lack of services under the Department of Mental Hygiene, but then arbitrarily and without rationale made the following statement:

"I do not conclude that the establishment of a separate department or office outside the Department of Mental Hygiene is an appropriate solution.

I believe that separation here would be a deliterious precedent for many branches of government, for the most effective delivery of health care and even for the retarded, many of whom have multiple other handicaps."

There is nothing in this report which states that this is the report of the Task Force on Mental Health. On the contrary, the statement is made "that I (Cahill) received a subcommittee report — and all other recommendations — and then provided him (the Governor) with my advice."

We are pleased to know, however, that Dr. Cahill offers his report and conclusions "with compassion", compassion we suppose for the mentally retarded who are going to suffer the same fate they have for the last almost 50 years under the Department of Mental Hygiene.

School districts sign contracts

School districts around the state are beginning, more and more, to sign contracts with the ARC and other agencies for the education of severely retarded and other handicapped children under Section 4404 2(b) of the Education Law. This is the law which mandates such school districts to either operate their own classes or contract with suitable private schools.

In Suffolk County, for example, 13 school districts have signed contracts with the A.H.R.C. to provide schooling for the mentally retarded for whom the districts have no suitable program. 11 other districts have yet to enter such an agreement.

The A.R.C. and other agencies are directed to seek funds for children entering their programs for the first time through arrangements with local school districts under the previously cited section of the law. However, Section 4407 is still operable for those who are enrolled in those programs.

In fact, the State of New York has asked the ARC and other agencies like us to do their work of enforcing the Education Law, against the school districts by getting the local school districts to "fork out" the money, as one of our directors put it. Contracts that have been entered into in Suffolk County have been for \$3500 a year, \$1000 more than 4407.

A year ago, Mr. Robert Sansone and others in the Association criticized the Education Department officials, warning that tuition assistance was in jeopardy in 4407 if there was not a viable alternative.

"We are now serving children for which we have received no state monies under either Section 4407 or 4404 2(b), Mr. Sansone observed just before Christmas of last year.

"Since we were told that we were alarmists at that time, is it time to worry now?" he asked.

Last chance for stamps

LAST CHANCE FOR STAMPS
Only A Few Left

Retarded Children Can Be Helped

Please send me

_____ First Day Covers at \$2.00
(How many?)

_____ Special 25th Anniversary Envelopes at \$1.00
(How many?)

Name _____
Address _____

Y.O.U.T.H. NEWS

from Page 11

SHARE — YOUTH

SHARE has been a very busy group since the conference in October. They are pleased to announce that their Hand-in-Hand Day in October was a great success. Approximately thirty members were bused to J.N. Adam Developmental Center at Perrysburg, N.Y. in Cattaraugus County. There, they entertained the residents on a one-to-one basis. It was a snowy day, so all of the events were held inside. Games, storytelling and dancing took up most of the day. SHARE hired a band, furnished the luncheon, and all of its members enjoyed themselves and they have slides and movies to prove it.

Record hops in October and November for the team M.R.'s were held along with a Christmas Ball in December. SHARE furnished the Band and refreshments for the December affair. The students voted for the "Pretty Girl" and "Handsome Boy" Awards.

The SHARE - sponsored Basketball team, the Racers, are working hard getting ready for the New Hampshire Special Olympics Basketball Skills Tournament. SHARE members pray that they get enough gas in order to go. Transportation is always a problem. Someday they hope to have their own Special Olympics Bus.

SHARE's 6th Annual Sweetheart Ball was held on February 7th. A King and Queen were crowned and led the reception along with their attendants.

These young YOUTH members are currently debating whether to have a walk-athon to Perrysburg (60 miles away) or a boat-athon down the river as a fund raiser this spring. Also on the agenda is a winter fun festival with prizes for tobogganing, sliding on inner tubes, skiing with one ski, and so forth. Also SHARE members are in the process of starting a choral group.

Cathy McBride was honored at a dinner by the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Olean for excellence in representing ideals that best project a favorable image of American Youth for her work in the SHARE group. Congratulations Cathy, you certainly deserve the honor.

SHARE voted to send the State YOUTH ARC \$50.00 for the Scholarship Fund.

Twenty members volunteered the 4th Saturday of every month to work with the multiply handicapped in a swimming program at the local YMCA.

No one can say that the SHARE group at Cattaraugus County isn't a dynamic active group in every way possible. Thanks for setting such a great example.



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