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# County of Allegheny

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAM

901 ALLEGHENY BUILDING / 429 FORBES AVENUE  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 / 355-4456

*Bob  
Spence  
photo  
to  
nuclear  
OK  
3/24/76*

March 24, 1976

TO: Ms. Rosemary Plessit  
United Mental Health

Mr. Ronald Archer  
ACC/PARC

Please find attached an appraisal from the Superintendent  
of Polk State School and Hospital regarding a recent visit of a  
Monitoring Team.

*Herbert Wilkerson*

Herbert Wilkerson  
Information Officer

HW:dml

Attachment





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
POLK STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL  
POLK, PENNSYLVANIA  
16342

March 12, 1976

Mrs. Sara Sattler  
Allegheny County MH/MR Program  
801 Allegheny Building  
429 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Dear Mrs. Sattler:

I am responding to your request for Polk State School's reaction to the comparatively recent visit of Allegheny County's Base Service Units.

First, let me say that the group of people that came, although large in number, conducted themselves in a very professional and courteous manner towards the residents and our staff. They are a credit to Allegheny County.

By them spending the time here, we sincerely believe that they are now in a much better position of understanding our problems and those of the residents. Through that understanding, our contacts with them are much more productive and when we express a concern or seek services in their area, there is a mutual trust that we are acting in the best interest of the resident. That may or may not have been true in some instances prior to the visit.

There now seems to be a much more aggressive exploration for group homes or foster homes. There will probably be a definite improvement in placements over the past record.

A major benefit is that the Base Service Unit has now seen, and touched, and become aware of the special needs here, and this experience has not died out upon the termination of the visit. The staff is now more personally concerned and committed, and as they pursue their role of advocate, and as we continue to supply them with information they request and with information we see as being valuable to them, the working relationship will become closer and closer.

There is a hope that the Base Service Unit will be able to bring changes in the parts of our system that are not responsive to internal prodding.

We feel that there was a realization on the part of the group that they were not providing much in the way of services for the residents of Polk who came from Allegheny County, which would eventually lead the resident back to a more stable environment.



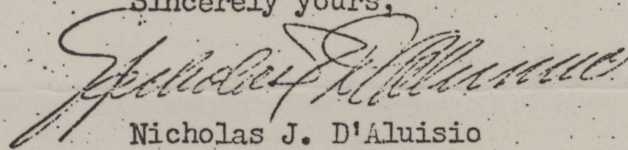
Mrs. Sara Sattler  
March 12, 1976

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They were a distinct catalyst for our staff as they questioned entries in the records or lack of certain programs. The exit interview also served as a very objective appraisal of what problems or concerns they had identified while they were here.

In summary, the visit was worthwhile and necessary and the person-to-person contact should continue. Periodic visits to Polk should be an integral part of a Base Service Unit's yearly routine.

Sincerely yours,



Nicholas J. D'Aluisio  
Superintendent

NJD/dss

