

PENNSYLVANIA MEDICAL SOCIETY



20 ERFORD ROAD
LEMOYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 17043
(717) 238-1635

May 8, 1973

PRESIDENT
Robert S. Sanford, M.D., Mansfield

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Ralph C. Wilde, M.D., Pittsburgh

VICE PRESIDENT
A. Reynolds Crane, M.D., Philadelphia

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
David S. Masland, M.D., Carlisle

SECRETARY
Raymond C. Grandon, M.D., Harrisburg

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
John F. Rineman, Lemoyne

Received in
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 9 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to _____

The Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

My dear Governor:

The Pennsylvania Medical Society urges you to call for a study funded through the legislature to bring together a number of now uncoordinated studies of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program in Pennsylvania as a step toward a single, thorough, objective evaluation of the entire situation. Our Society pledges its cooperation in such an effort.

The state administration and legislature should participate in, but not dominate, a general investigation led by a national figure with an unquestioned reputation for objectivity. As additional participants we suggest representatives of the general public, private mental health and mental retardation groups and leading professionals in the mental health/mental retardation fields.

The information currently available to us indicates that Dr. James H. McClelland, the former superintendent of Polk State Hospital, is a victim of the state's difficulty in establishing and administering practical uniform guidelines with adequate funding in the mental health/mental retardation area. In addition, the emotionalism surrounding the dismissal of Dr. McClelland tends to obscure the real issue -- the quality of all of the care and services provided by the state

(continued)

The Honorable Milton J. Shapp
Governor of Pennsylvania

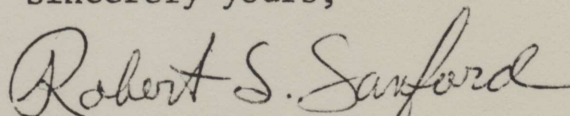
May 8, 1973
Page 2

to the mentally ill and mentally retarded. The general investigation we recommend should be authorized promptly under auspices that would avoid any political stigma. Political or personality issues dare not be involved in anything so serious as assessing the quality of care and services provided to the retarded and mentally ill.

The issue is not the use of restraining enclosures for those patients whose periodic violence to themselves and to others cannot be controlled adequately by drugs. The real issue is the total quality of care the state provides and this needs to be impartially assessed and made public so that facts and not emotionalism will be the basis for action.

The general study we recommend is sorely needed and we call upon State Government to authorize it as promptly as possible. We pledge our support for such a move and our willingness to participate in it.

Sincerely yours,



Robert S. Sanford, M.D.
President
Pennsylvania Medical Society

RSS:mh

cc: The Honorable Helene Wohlgemuth
The Honorable Martin L. Murray
The Honorable Thomas F. Lamb
The Honorable Richard C. Frame
The Honorable Stanley G. Stroup
The Honorable W. Louis Coppersmith
The Honorable Kenneth B. Lee
The Honorable Robert J. Butera
The Honorable Herbert Fineman
The Honorable Sherman L. Hill ✓