



ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER  
Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc.  
1001 BRICKTON ROAD  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233  
telephone: (412) 322-6008

# PARC

ROBERT M. MATESIC  
Chapter President

RONALD E. ARCHER  
Executive Director

March 28, 1977

TO: Joan Murdoch, Chairperson, Membership Committee  
FROM: Robert Nelkin, Acting Executive Director

We must tell the story better. There have been important, tangible benefits to parents of mentally retarded individuals. We must tell them more often about these benefits:

- 1) No fees for preschool and sheltered workshops because of an ACC-PARC law suit.
- 2) Children who had been excluded from public school are now being educated because of a PARC law suit.
- 3) Quality of education has improved as a result of this law suit and other actions.
- 4) The living conditions and training programs for individuals in institutions have improved because of ACC-PARC monitoring and lobbying.
- 5) Recreation and camping programs have been developed and the fees partially subsidized because of ACC-PARC efforts.
- 6) Therapeutic activity centers exist in every catchment area of the county, for adults who need daily training in living skills, because of ACC-PARC organizational efforts.
- 7) The development of alternatives to institutions like group homes and apartments has been hastened by ACC-PARC political action.
- 8) There is no cost to a family for community MH/MR or institutional services once their son/daughter reaches the age of 18 as a result of legislation instigated by ACC-PARC.
- 9) The availability of many community services, i.e. preschools, infant program, Foster Grandparent Program, sheltered workshops, etc.

RN:cp



C: Bob Matesic

Nancy Zirngibl

MEMBER UNIT - National Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc. PARTICIPANT - Allegheny County Mental Health/  
Mental Retardation Program

April 16, 1971

REGIONAL DIRECTOR SECRETARIES  
INSTITUTIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Helene Kohlgemuth  
Secretary of Public Welfare

On a recent visit to a Department of Public Welfare institution for the mentally retarded, I observed the incarceration of residents in locked cages and in large pens.

I am not aware that such conditions currently exist elsewhere in our institutions. In the event that any of you have been countenancing the use of such degrading and de-humanizing methods, this is to notify you that effective immediately the use of cages or pens for the incarceration of residents is expressly prohibited.

cc: Mr. Goldman  
Dr. Beach ✓  
Mr. Leopold  
Mr. Thompson  
Mr. Ball

HW:EBC:ju

cc: Mr. Carskadon  
File



# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

HARRISBURG

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

CONTACT: BUREAU OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
(717) 787-6987

May 9, 1973  
73-118 RH  
Newsroom

# NEWS

Secretary of Public Welfare Helene Wohlgemuth announced a series of actions designed to improve the quality of care and rehabilitation at Polk State School and Hospital. Mrs. Wohlgemuth in a letter to the parents of children at the institution said: "In the midst of all the controversy, my primary concern continues to be the well-being of your child at Polk."

In moves which will translate that concern into action, the Secretary announced several steps she has taken. First, a group of seven nationally known experts in modern programming for the mentally retarded are visiting Polk today. The experts will be viewing programs at the facility and/provide observations and an evaluation based on their own experiences.

Mrs. Wohlgemuth said: "I am pleased we could call on the advice of people such as Alan Menefee, Director of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, Phillip Roos, Executive Director of the National Association for Retarded Children and others to provide help in improving programs at Polk."

The seven member team in addition to Roos and Menefee includes:

Dr. Marvin Kivitz  
Elwyn Institute

Mr. Albert Meuli  
National Association of Superintendents of Public Residences Facilities  
for the Mentally Retarded

Mr. Gene Patterson  
National Association for Retarded Children, Residential Committee

Dr. George Soloyanis  
American Association on Mental Deficiency

Dr. Luke Watson, Jr.  
Columbus State Institute

(more)

"I have asked each of these experts to provide me with their evaluation and advice," Mrs. Wohlgemuth said.

In a second action the Secretary also announced that a team representing several professional disciplines was spending the week at Polk working with staff to assess program needs and develop recommendations for immediate improvement in conditions.

Under the direction of Ford Thompson, Jr., Special Assistant to the Secretary, the team consists of a pediatrician from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, an expert in physical therapy, and veteran professionals in nursing, social work, psychology, patient activities and education.

Mrs. Wohlgemuth said: "I expect both of these actions to provide us with recommendations and specific evaluations for change and improvement at Polk."

# # #



# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

HARRISBURG

# NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Sunday, May 20, 1973

CONTACT: BUREAU OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
(717) 787-6987

News Room and State Media  
73-129JB

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## PROGRAM REVIEW STARTS AT EASTERN STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL AND FOUR OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Secretary of Public Welfare Helene Wohlgemuth today announced that an in-depth review of policies, programs and procedures at Department institutions will begin Monday, May 21, at Eastern State School and Hospital, Trevose, Bucks County, and expand to four other facilities May 29.

"It is the intention of the Shapp Administration to effect changes in our institutions to assure the highest quality of care possible for the residents," Mrs. Wohlgemuth stated.

"Since their creation, state institutions have operated as independent, autonomous entities.

"As each institution is visited, the review teams will identify program and administrative deficiencies. The deficiencies will form the basis for setting time limited goals for corrective action. The goals will include specific plans to improve a given situation and methods by which those goals can be reached.

"After the review teams have finished the initial phase, departmental personnel will monitor progress at each institution. The monitoring will include the measurement of change to meet the originally specified goals. After-hour and night visitations will be an integral part of the monitoring phase.

"This methodology will not only assure improvements in patient care but also enhance the Department's ability to establish and measure each institution's ability to provide quality care," Secretary Wohlgemuth said.

Co-chairmen of the survey team at Eastern State School and Hospital—an institution for mentally ill children—are Dr. Charles Palm, Southeastern Regional Commissioner for Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Philadelphia, and Dr. Moyer C. Sonis, Professor of Child Psychiatry, Western Psychiatric Institution and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh.

Members of the study group are: Mrs. Barrie R. Cassileth, Director of Communications, Pennsylvania Mental Health, Inc., Philadelphia; Miss Sylvia B. Green, Director, Bureau of Mental Hospital Programs, DPW, Harrisburg; Fred Kinsinger, Director of Licensing, DPW, Harrisburg; Paul C. Lehman, Psychiatric Nursing Director, Philadelphia State Hospital, Philadelphia; Dr. James Reisinger, Holy Spirit Hospital, Mental Health Center, Camp Hill; Miss Beth Dolde, Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Philadelphia; Mrs. Marjorie Steever, Medicare Consultant, DPW, Harrisburg; Tim Warfield, Director of the Bureau of Planning and Evaluation, Office of Mental Health, DPW, Harrisburg; Mrs. Rhea Weiss, Chief, Division of Children and Youth, Office of Mental Health, DPW, Harrisburg; Dr. Maxim Young, Director of Evaluation and Research, Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Philadelphia; Willard Zeigler, Speech and Hearing Consultant, Office of Mental Retardation, DPW, Harrisburg; Mrs. Kathryn Trotta, Director of Activities and Occupational Therapy, Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Philadelphia.

Additional review teams of experts--composed of high-level personnel of the department's regional and central offices as well as non-departmental members--are organized and will visit four more institutions starting May 29th. The institutions are: Cornwells Heights Youth Development Center, Bucks County; Hamburg State School and Hospital, Berks County; Harrisburg State Hospital, Dauphin County, and Philadelphia State Hospital.

"We will look into areas that can't be easily measured. We will talk with residents and staff members in efforts to find out what the problems are.

"We will ask the kind of questions nobody else is asking. We will measure the relationships between people. We will identify program strengths and weaknesses," the Secretary said.

The Department has already started a staffing review of the state mental health institutions and the new special team effort will carry that work forward as well as evaluating other types of facilities.

Last year, the Department initiated a major review of all private licensed facilities for the mentally retarded, receiving information enabling better treatment for persons in such facilities.

All Department of Public Welfare institutions including mental hospitals, institutions for the retarded, state general hospitals, youth development centers and restoration centers are being reviewed on a continuing basis throughout the year.

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# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

HARRISBURG

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

CONTACT: BUREAU OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
(717) 787-6987

# NEWS

July 10, 1973  
News Room and Regional Media  
162MS

## INSTITUTION REVIEWS EXTENDED TO FOUR MORE FACILITIES

High-level survey teams carried Governor Milton J. Shapp's prescribed statewide procedure and policy review of Welfare Department institutions to four additional facilities on Monday, July 9.

Welfare Secretary Helene Wohlgemuth said the teams will begin in-depth surveys of Clarks Summit State Hospital, Lackawanna County; Selinsgrove State School and Hospital, Snyder County, and at Woodville State Hospital and the Warrendale Youth Development Center in Allegheny County.

"This Administration is committed to effect changes in institutional care. Where necessary, priorities will change and problem areas corrected so that such care is of the best quality and most responsive to the particular needs of the people served," Secretary Wohlgemuth said.

The Welfare Secretary noted that the intensive review of all mental hospitals, institutions for the retarded, state general hospitals, youth development centers and restoration centers was progressing satisfactorily and would be completed by summer's end.

The survey, which began May 21, has been conducted in 12 institutions to date.

Teams for the four institutions to be surveyed July 9 include:

Clarks Summit State Hospital---Dr. Harriet Mantell, acting superintendent of Allentown State Hospital, and Helen Rains, acting commissioner for mental health, co-chairmen. Also: Ralph Hodgson, social work consultant, DPW Northeastern Region; Brigg Salls, director of social and rehabilitative services, Wernersville State Hospital; Richard McLaughlin, Community Medical Center, Scranton; John Gunn,

- more -

*Copies to Bob & Ginny 1/2*

Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne county mental health and mental retardation administrator; Dr. George Gittens, psychiatric consultant for medical services, DPW; Cleo Dell, Danville State Hospital; Santo Gamber, DPW administrative-fiscal representative; Kathleen Reese, chief of the DPW Division of Post Hospital Programs, and James Henry, central office budget analyst.

Selinsgrove State School and Hospital---Robert Vogt, DPW Central Region, and Nancy Holtheus, Laurelton State School and Hospital, co-chairmen. Also: Lois Colley, Hamburg State School and Hospital; Eileen O'Neil, director of social services, Franklin County Child Care Services; Robert Samet, DPW Central Region; John O'Connor, Northeastern Region mental retardation commissioner; Richard Scott, occupational therapist, White Haven State School and Hospital; Dr. Raphael Rusynyk, Department of Health; Irvin Guilett, DPW Western Region, and Bruce Fessenden, chief of the DPW Division of Federal and local programs, DPW Office of Mental Retardation.

Warrendale Youth Development Center---Mrs. Charlotte Ginsburg, Pittsburgh coordinator for the Pennsylvania Program for Women and Girl Offenders; Rodney Torbic, executive director of the Governor's Justice Commission in Allegheny County; James Nieman, personnel director, DPW Western Regional Office; Carl Triola, executive director of Erie County Children's Services; Mrs. Ruth Richardson, executive director of Three Rivers Youth, Pittsburgh; Atty. Thomas Halloran, Department of Community Advocate Unit, Attorney General's Office; Larry Mason, Westmoreland County Chief Probation Officer; Clay Prestia, Youth Strike Force, Health and Welfare Association of Allegheny County, and Robert Ridley, Philadelphia Youth Development Center.

Woodville State Hospital---Dr. Floyd Mallott, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh, and Harriet McMasters, DPW Western Region, co-chairmen. Also: Dr. Fred Weniger, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic; Dr. John Allen, Warren State Hospital; Julia Allison, director of nursing, Torrance State Hospital; Phyllis Phillips, director of nursing, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic;

Dr. Beryl Johnson, Dixmont State Hospital; Dr. M. G. Magnussen, Pittsburgh Child Guidance; Roma Manako, occupational therapist, Torrance State Hospital; Phillip Littlebale, Dixmont State Hospital; Raymond Webb, director of Allegheny East Mental Health and Mental Retardation; Ted Stroup, social service director, Torrance State Hospital; Nancy Lindsay, assistant social service director; Tom Jones, Polk State School and Hospital; C. L. Carson, business manager, Mayview State Hospital; Oscar Davis, Western State School and Hospital; Bob Arthur, Western Region County Board of Assistance; Mrs. Wanda Love, Western Region compliance officer; Martin Yavorsky, Western Region building and maintenance engineer; Ed Briceland, fire marshall, Western State School and Hospital, and Sylvia Green, director, DPW Bureau of Mental Hospitals.

# # #

Mrs Helen Wahgemuth  
Secretary of Welfare  
Harrisburg Pa 17101

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 8 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. 18-

Dear Mrs Wahgemuth:

I am writing to you as the  
grandma of a retarded child.

I am certainly in support of your  
actions regarding Polk State School

Our retarded children are deserving  
of the best care available. Please  
continue with the fine job you  
have been doing.

Sincerely

Mrs Victory Polk  
Rt 2 Linton Pa  
15642

— SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 7 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to

ROCHESTER, PA 5-6-73

DEAR MADAM -

YOU JUST KEEP HANGING IN THERE. FIRING INDEED, HE SHOULD BE PUT IN JAIL, AND ONE WEEK OUT OF EACH MONTH TO BE LOCKED IN A 5X5X5. WHO DOES THIS GUY THINK HE IS? PUTTING PEOPLE IN CAGES THAT SAME IN A GAGE LIKE THAT YOU CAN'T STAND UP OR LAY DOWN. I THINK YOU THE RIGHT THING FIRING MCGLELLAND, I WON'T EVEN REFER TO HIM AS A DOCTOR, NOW THE PEOPLE RALLYING TO HIS SIDE ONLY PROVES HOW CLEVER THIS INDIVIDUAL REALLY IS. SO HANG IN THERE, DON'T LET ANYBODY CHANGE YOUR MIND!

A. Cassi

ROCHESTER, PA

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
APR 23 1973  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
Ref. to

Meadville, Pa.

Apr. 18, 1973

Dear Mrs Wohlgemuth,

Please, please reconsider your decision to replace Dr McClelland as superintendent of Polk State School.

Our son, William has been a patient there over 2 years and we have never seen or heard of any harsh or unusual punishment. These children must have discipline for their own good as well as others. Our Bill is home now and he talks often of Dr McClelland & how he takes a personal interest in all the patients.

We think you will find strong support for Dr McClelland from everyone who knows him.

Respectfully,  
Paul & Velma [redacted]

Meadville, Pa.



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

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL  
LETTERS REGARDING PATIENTS  
TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

JAMES H. McCLELLAND, JR., M.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

April 16, 1973

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
APR 19 1973  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Philip Elkin, Chairman  
Residential Services Committee  
School Lane House, Apt. A-416  
Wissahickon Ave, & School House Lane  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19144

Dear Mrs. Elkin

I have just received your intercommunication memo entitled "A Visit to Polk State School and Hospital", dated March 27, 1973. The quality of the zerox copy, which I received, gave me my first indication of the type of report that I was about to read. It is, without a doubt, the most vicious attack that I have witnessed on an institution and its employees and particularly its Superintendent. Since you, yourself, have removed the kid gloves from this discussion, I will continue in the same vein.

It's obvious from the beginning remarks that you make that you are mistrustful of this institution. You challenge Dr. McClelland's trustfulness in regard to knowing beforehand of your visit. In the fourth paragraph of your report, you wondered if the single rooms were used as a reward or for spying on the girls. I think a report, such as you made, should confine itself to observations and not your own psychological hang ups. Your constant innuendos betray not so much the inadequacies of this institution as they do your own. On the second page, under the title of "Food Services", I find it incongruous that you mentioned that the girls who were eating did not try to talk to you. This is a difficult project, to talk while you are eating, especially, when no one stops to talk to you. Your concern for the welfare of the retarded was nowhere in evidence on the day of your visitation. Instead, there was an attempt to avoid any conversation with the residents, especially, those with severe physical handicaps. You questioned dining room attendants as to the service that they were offering, "to help, to watch, to keep order?" Since you raise a question, permit me to respond. Yes, the employees were there to help. They are there to watch. They are there to keep order. That is their job.

Under the title of "Sunnyside", you, again through innuendo, cast aspersions about the treatment of the residents in this building. You say "some had scratches or bruises". Yet, in the same cottage you raised the question about "large wooden enclosures of wooden slats placed close together and about 5 feet high". As we explained to you at that time, these enclosures were used to confine disturbed residents, instead of placing them in a strait jacket for restraint; it was felt that it is more humane to allow them freedom of movement and at the same time protect other residents from the bruises and scratches that you have called attention to. These enclosures were designed by Dr. Sidney Kaplan many years ago so that the restraining jackets would not have to be used.

con't.

Mrs.. Philip Elkin

-2-

April 16, 1973

Again, in the same building, you say that "the residents did better, especially when Dr. McClelland asked them questions". Yet you mention that there are 400 severely and profoundly retarded men live in this building. Yes, they do have difficulty answering questions, responding to the inquiries of strangers.

Again, you mention that you had "caught them off-guard". I think that sentence betrays your whole attitude towards this institution. You had come to condemn and to criticize; you had not come to observe. You mention that you had been brought in the back doors of the buildings. If you had been brought in the front door, you would have criticized that this was an attempt to alert the building to your presence. If you had come in a side door, you would of said we were trying to avoid showing you the real institution. Take your choice.

Under the heading of "Meadowside", you continue in the same vein. "When we returned after visiting this building, everything was ship-shape, you betcha!" This is normal for any household to have dirty dishes after a meal and then to clean those dishes afterwards. I cannot understand the mentality that tries to see duplicity in action such as this. You say "I am ashamed I didn't say anything". I am glad to discover that there are periods of silence in the course of your days, but you undid this when you said that you were "in shock". Perhaps this accounts for the report that you have sent out about this institution. In the incident of the cheerful room at Meadowside, I called to your attention during that particular tour, that you had misquoted Dr. McClelland, saying that he had said that he didn't care that the residents were over-crowded. I reminded you, at that time, that his statement was that at that mental age and in dealing with the profoundly retarded, that they were the ones who did not care about the overcrowded conditions. The word overcrowded has been used of this institution for many decades. It is like the weather. Everyone talks about it. Current criticisms of institutions seem to be aimed, primarily, at standards of architecture rather than standards of care.

The venom of your attack on this school and in particular on Dr. McClelland is very obvious. I am at a loss to understand the motivation for this. I fail to understand how someone of your limited knowledge and experience with the retarded can place herself on a pedestal to judge the work of a man who has dedicated 32 years of his life to meeting the needs and desires of these people. I feel that no further comment on this obviously biased report which has been disseminated by you and the officers of PARC is necessary. The inadequacies of your ability, the venomous tone, hostility, and subjectiveness make it impossible to seek any meaningful dialogue with you. I find it impossible to believe that you are concerned with the needs and desires of the retarded. I can only pray: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

With best wishes for a happy Easter, I am

Sincerely yours,

*John A. Kirk*  
Father John A. Kirk  
Catholic Chaplain

JAK/pls

cc: Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth ✓  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Peter P. Polloni  
Mrs. Harry P. Clapp

4/19/73

SUBJECT: Report of Telephone call.

TO: Secretary Wohlgemuth

FROM: Marguerite

Yolanda [redacted] called from Detroit, Michigan. Wanted to inform you and to go on record as opposed to the dismissal of Dr. McClelland. Feels he was unjustly accused. She has a brother who has been at Polk for 39 years. She has seen the place grow and feels that the people up there have been well taken care of. Feels Dr. McClelland should be reinstated, as he has done an excellent job in taking care of those children.

FRED J. LaJOHN Investments

SUITE A . 2117 WEST EIGHTH STREET . ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16505 . TELEPHONE 454-3858

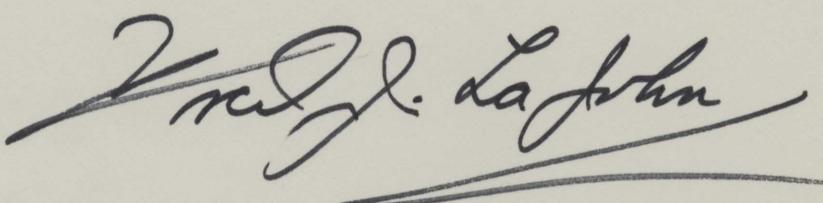
APRIL 18, 1973

DRAR MS WOHLGEMUTH:

THE DISMISSAL  
OF DR. MC CLYLLAND IS A STEP  
TOWARDS PROGRESS FOR YOUR DPT.  
DURING MY EMPLOYMENT WITH THE  
COMMONWEALTH FROM 1965 TO 1960  
I OBSERVED THIS MAN AS AN ASSISTANT  
SUPT AND AS FULL SUPT. HIS APPROACH  
TO SAY THE LEAST, HAS NO PLACE  
IN MODERN DAY HELP FOR THE  
RETARDED.

BEST WISHES FOR  
YOUR CONTINUED GOOD WORK.

VERY TRULY YOURS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred J. LaJohn

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 19 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECURITY DEALERS

MEMBER SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORP.

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 19 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

April 18, 1973

C

Honorable Milton Shapp  
Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Penna. 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

I think the summary discharge of Dr. James H. McClelland of Polk State School was overwhelmingly politically motivated and a disgrace to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I do not know Dr. McClelland personally, but his reputation is beyond reproach. I find it hard to believe, that two women that have no professional training can and should have this kind of influence on his career. Consequently, I am submitting this as an unsolicited objection to his treatment.

O

Sincerely,

*Roland H. Corbet*

Roland H. Corbet, M.D.

P

RHC/ro  
cc:

Mrs. Helen Wohlgemuth  
Honorable Richard Frame  
Honorable Alvin Kahle  
Editor of The Derrick  
File

Apr. 20, 1973

Sec of Welfare

Harrisburg, Pa

Dear Madam,

RECORDED  
SECRETARIAL SECTION

MAY 3 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REG'D.

We support you in the firing  
of Dr McClelland.

Please don't let them reinstate  
them him because those handicapped  
people need volunteers to help them  
find a better life and he is against  
that.

Respectfully

Mrs. Bertha Burns

Rodgers  
1040 Main St.  
Pgh Pa. 15217

Ms. Helen Holgemuth  
Secretary of Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,

Dear Secretary,

I highly support your position  
on Full Title School and Hospital  
and endorse program changes  
in that institution.

Sincerely  
Josine Rodgers

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 2 1973  
DEPT. OF PUB. WELFARE  
Rpt to \_\_\_\_\_

6330 Clay Furnace Rd.

Sharpsville, Pa. 16150

(1)

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 1 1972 ac: Taylor

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth,

I would like to let you know, I am with you 100% of the way you handled the situation at Polk School.

I am a mother of a mental retarded child who is in school for 2 years now. He is <sup>about</sup> 4 years old. I would never send him away to a school or an institution. ("Never.") With the way things are now adays. I can't and don't trust none of them. You never know what they are doing when you are not there. Of all things (cages) I can't even cage an animal up, let alone a person. This is terrible.

As far as P.A.R.C. It is tops. My son went to school for 1 1/2 yrs. down at Westmoreland County Association for the Retarded. They are wonderful. They taught him how to eat, wash, dress, brush his teeth, sit his table, ride a bike, and etc.

We had a 5 hour day school; busing speech therapist, it was just wonderful.

But since I moved up here now, He goes to Mercer County Association for the Retarded. And I must say I do ●  
not like it. You can have the  
 M.C.A.R.

The teachers we have, does not have the kind of love or care for them. There is to much attention shown to certain kids and not the others. Some will get cookies at snack time and some get two and some won't. We have to have a 5 hour day school down here, because they don't learning much at all in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. We have to have 2 classes to separate the kids. Some are faster than others, and some are bored and won't do anything. So the whole class has to stop and wait till the child makes their mind up to come and sit down. This is losing precious time, which we don't have. ●

All the mothers down here agree. But what can we do. We need help.  
 P.S. Some don't get any cookies at all. ●

I wished there were some way I could

(3)

talk to you. I also wished you could come and talk to all of us mothers.

I also wished we could have busing.

We don't get any progress report (like a report card) letting us know how the children are doing in school. The teacher hardly ever tells us what they are doing and what we can do to help.

All I can say is, Westmoreland County Association for the Retarded is the best school there is. The teachers and staff are tops.

But up here, they are way behind. Everything up here, my son has learned down at Westmoreland when he first started to school. M.C.A.R. is not up to date.

If you have the time I would like for you to write me a letter or call if possible, and let me know what can be done. I would like to talk to you. I can explain better than writing.

Another thing, the people that are doing all the complaining of you being

(ord)

Dr. McClelland, probably doesn't have any mental retarded children, or they wouldn't be complaining. If they did, they sure would understand how we feel having the retarded penned in cages. A lot of people are sure complaining, and I bet most of them don't even understand or know what is going on. In my opinion, we do not need politics in the Association of the Retarded. If we got all the politics out, things sure would be better. If the politicians wanted to do any good, they could see we got the money to run the schools, get buses for us, speech therapists, and teachers who loves and care for this children. We need people who cares and understand, and want to help them learn. Not people who just wants headlines, or their pay checks. Doesn't any one know these children are special. The people in this world are all wrong. They have wrong ideas about the Retarded Child. And this is a shame.

(5)

Nobody has any consideration for the retarded.

What I can't understand is why I can not get any life insurance on my son. Nobody wants to insure a mental retarded. Do you call this fair? I sure don't. I don't think the Retarded People are being treated right. I am concerned about this.

Another thing Mrs. Wohlgemuth, we ~~have~~ have a color girl in my son's class. And there sure is a racial problem. The teacher shows she doesn't care or doesn't want her there. She ignores the little girl at times. And most of the time she ignores her mother. You can see this plain as day. But the mother will not take her out of school. And I sure don't blame her. She also is one of the children that gets a cookie once in awhile. If she doesn't say cookie she doesn't get one. It is not fair to give to one an not the other. We are all equal. and should be treated so. Our teacher loses her patience to fast.

over

(6)

She pulls them by the hands or arms to hard. There are some children that gets corrected the wrong way. I don't think she knows what she's doing. If she does, she does not belong in this kind of school. She does know what she is doing, when she loses her patience.

There has to be some changes down here at Mercer County.

I am so sorry for such a sloppy letter. I do hope you can read. And I want to thank you for taking time out to read it. If possible I would like to know your opinion of my letter, and see what can be done.

Thank You  
Mrs. William Besser  
6330 Clay Furnace Road  
Sharpsville, Pa. 16150

Phone Area Code 412 - 962 - 4208

Apr. 26, 1973

Sec. of Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pa.

RECORDED IN  
RECEIVED IN OFFICE

APR 30 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Madam:

We wholly support you in  
your firing of Dr. McClelland.

He is against making life better  
for the handicapped and we  
know what a wonderful thing  
we are doing for the retarded and  
disturbed people at our institution.  
We are Foster Grandparents at  
the Home for Crippled Children and  
they are responding amazingly.

Yours respectfully

Mrs E. Wilkinson

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 1 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. No. 1000

304 McKeeverding Rd  
New Castle, Pa. 16105.  
Apr. 27, 1973.

Mrs Helene Walgemuth  
Secretary of Welfare.

Madam Secretary -

May I ask a few questions?

First: What qualifications do you have for suggesting treatment of profoundly retarded persons?

Second: Have you ever had the responsibility of caring for, or housing just one such person over a prolonged period of time?

Third: What would you do if an enraged person, not mentally responsible for his own actions, attacked you, or someone else in your presence, intent upon getting you out of his way (no matter how!) and without the ability to realize the result of his action?

Fourth: Do you consider all parents, grandparents or paid child care attendants of NORMAL children simply cruel when they consider it necessary to use ANY method of disciplinary or safety measures?

Fifthly: Is it fair to convict a dedicated, conscientious person with such unfathomable integrity that he has spent his professional career in direct contact with thousands of unfortunate souls who need the type of compassion and devotion which Dr. McClelland possesses?

Some of the residents (or patients) at Peck never knew what tender loving care was until they were enclosed within the walls of Peck State School. Some parents of some patients do not admit, either, that they are responsible for some of Dr. McClelland's problems. Some, like one who accompanied you on your fateful tour of Apr. 67, "look in about 7 times in 10 yrs., yet feel qualified to sign a statement saying that "programming" at Peck State School is less than adequate.

Another question, lady! "Is a short period of privation such an extreme disciplinary measure?"

To be sure "sedation" would make it easier for the attendants? Or straight jackets could further enrage other patients.

One mother I know can testify to this. Her boy had surgery at Palk State School. To keep him from removing his bandages & dressings he had to be placed in a straight jacket type of restraints. He, with almost super human strength, flexed his muscles until he ripped the flesh on his arms & ~~the~~ legs. Of course this only added to his misery, but he didn't realize it.

By the way, this was the same boy who had "scratches" on the day of your last visit. His mother is not accusing the attendants nor Dr. McClelland of either neglect, or mal-practice.

The, who are parents of Palk State School residents, have only contempt for the attacks which have been levelled against Dr. Jas. H. McClelland, Jr.

First of all, he's a gentleman, -

else why would he have conducted  
that "fateful tour" by car since  
it was raining that day?  
Secondly, he's profoundly humane,  
and a Christian.

During his residency in Venango Co.  
he has won him a place in the  
hearts of his fellowmen. Can  
some of his "condemners" say as  
much? (Unless money can buy  
prestige & public respect!)

Another statement: Last Saturday  
a visitor going through the corridors  
of the Main building there was  
accosted by a boy (a resident)  
who caught him by the arm  
and asked, "Do you love me?"  
The man answered, "Of course.  
Why?" The boy replied, "Then,  
bring Dr. McClelland back."

And right now I want to commend  
Dr. McClelland for the type of staff  
he has placed in charge of the  
residents there. We who struggled

for years to keep our children at home, & finally had to face the decision to institutionalize them were more than happy that Pack State School was available. Now, while they're away from us we can feel confident that they're safe and well cared for, and even loved. Can we now?

They have come to love Dr. McClelland, their cottage attendants, their teachers & instructors, their religious chaplains, and even the "guards".

As for cottage life - to be sure, they're large buildings, but they're immaculately clean & airy, comfortable & cheery. Sure they sit on floors at times, but they're not forced to. Sure, they go to sleep while watching TV or listening to stereo - they even do this when they're home. Those who can manage it are taught simple household chores, personal grooming, clothing care, communal living and tolerance of the weaker (or even more aggressive),

They're exposed to many educational opportunities & social-oriented experiences). In short, they have a much more-rounded, broader environment than is possible in local communities in today's society.

The local hospitals and other community service organizations are not equipped to care for these people, nor do they care to cater to "this type of citizenry".

These kids are lonely & lost and frightened when cast out into today's complex society. God bless such men as Dr. McClelland. I do hereby go on record as opposing your recent action on his behalf (Hope you can sleep well these nights, 2800 children await his return).

I would also welcome your alternative to his plan.

Yours very bitterly  
Frances M. Bees.

427 Vermont Avenue  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16505  
April 24, 1973

Ms. Helen Wohlgemuth  
Secretary of Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Wohlgemuth,

I am a Special Education teacher and have a severely retarded daughter living at Polk State School. Therefore, I feel more than qualified to express my great distress caused by your recent firing of Dr. James McClelland, superintendent of Polk State School.

Your abrupt action indicates to me that you have very little intimate knowledge of severely and profoundly retarded children and adults. There are individuals who require close supervision and partial confinement in a play-pen-like enclosure for their safety and the safety of others. This is not cruel and inhumane, it is sensible action taken for safety. Some of the children and adults do require rather heavy medication at various times because of severely aggressive behavior.

It is my opinion, and the opinion of various professional persons that I have discussed this matter with, that partial confinement used in conjunction with some medication is far preferable, more humane, and more sensible course of action. This gives aides and teachers the opportunity to work with and try to help the residents.

Play pens are used by many parents of young children to keep them safe and not isolated. Many residents of Polk are still very young children though they are physically mature.

My daughter is and has been receiving excellent care at Polk. Dr. McClelland is responsible for a fine program of high quality care for all the patients in his care. I do not understand how you can possibly charge him with inhumane treatment. He could not possibly have held his position at Polk as administrator for so long a time or be so highly respected by his employees, parents of patients, professionals in his field, and many other people, if your charges were true.

I believe that you have made a very serious error in judgement. It is my sincere wish that you reconsider this extremely serious decision and reinstate Dr. McClelland at Polk so that he can continue to administer a program which is progressive, thoughtful, and has great concern for the welfare and best interests of its residents.

Sincerely,  
*Judith L.*  
Judith L.

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 7, 1973

Junior Woman's Club  
Franklin, Pa.

April 26, 1973

Dear Governor Shapp:

We, the members of the Franklin Junior Woman's Club, are reaffirming our concern and position on the untimely dismissal of Dr. James H. McClelland, Jr. from Polk State School and Hospital.

Dr. McClelland has dedicated over thirty years of service to the retarded residents of the Polk State School and Hospital. Through the years his concern has been for the patients and their welfare.

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth, Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, in a Saturday visitation of two hours and in only three buildings, made an unjust and drastic decision. Her tour was too fast for such a vast complex as Polk State School and Hospital, and her decision was premature. To challenge Dr. McClelland's knowledge, his experience, and his concern for patient welfare in a two hour visit is quite unbelievable!

We are appalled that you have not personally investigated such an important situation where the welfare of 2,800 retarded residents is at stake.

We request that in the interest of the residents of Polk State School and Hospital and for the injustice that has been done to Dr. McClelland you will immediately take action.

We trust that Dr. McClelland's reinstatement will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Paul R. Stump  
Mr. Michael J. Dougherty  
Mrs. Carol A. Jefford  
Mrs. Stephen J. Edwards  
Mrs. Lawrence C. Pfeifer  
Mrs. John Ferraro  
Mrs. George E. Jolley  
Mrs. William J. Peterson  
Mrs. Helen Beetham

Junior Woman's Club

Franklin, Pa.

Page 2

Governor Milton J. Shapp

Mrs Joseph E. Huswold  
Mrs. Kenneth E. McDermott  
Mrs Clyde E. Case  
Mrs Michael D. Kadylek  
Mrs Connie Landerbaugh  
Miss Virginia Brooks  
Mrs. Howard Sutor  
Mrs. David R. Lord  
Mrs. Lois Larimore  
Mrs. Cathy Ann Kunninger  
Mrs. Charlette Gerber  
Mrs. Ronald DeCamp  
Mrs. Terry Peterson  
Mrs. Robert Miller  
Mrs. Richard Pennington  
Mrs. Charles Schwartz  
Mrs. Patricia J. Wendorf  
Mrs. John C. White  
Mrs. Mrs. Gwendolyn  
Mrs. Mrs. Pauline J. D.  
Mrs. Clement L. Mithers  
Mrs. James Buff  
Mrs. James D. Miller  
Kathleen L. Paolo  
Lila Martin  
Frances Anderson

Mr. James K. Hogan  
Mrs Bruce Smeal  
Mrs. Lyda St. Hilaire  
Mrs. James May  
Mrs. Robert King  
Mrs. Roger Whitehouse

Junior Woman's Club

Franklin, Pa.

Page 3  
Governor Milton J. Shapp

cc:

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth, Secretary of Pennsylvania  
Department of Public Welfare  
Mr. Edward Goldman, Commissioner of Mental Retardation  
Mrs. Harry P. Clapp, President of Pennsylvania Association  
for Retarded Children  
Senator Richard C. Frame  
Representative Alvin Kahle  
Mrs. Rex T. Wrye, President of Pennsylvania Federation  
of Women's Clubs  
Mrs. Allan Kime, Jr., Junior Director of Pennsylvania  
Federation of Women's Clubs  
Mrs. Benjamin Fresch, Northwest District President of  
Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs  
Mrs. Jack Ricalton, Venango County President of Pennsylvania  
Federation of Women's Clubs  
The News-Herald  
The Derrick  
WFRA  
WKRZ  
KDKA  
WIIC  
WTAE  
WQED  
WQLN  
WJET  
WICU  
WSEE  
Dr. James H. McClelland, Jr.

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 30 1973

DEPT. OF

Ref. to

April 27, 1973

Mrs. Helen Wohlgemuth,  
Secretary of Welfare,  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17100

Dear Mr. Wohlgemuth:

Won't you please reconsider and reinstate Dr. James McClelland as Superintendant of Polk State School and Hospital?

Upon checking into Dr. McClelland's service to Polk, you will find him compassionate and dedicated.

I feel we cannot afford to lose this man at Polk, and I ask that you reconsider your early decision.

Sincerely,

*Eleanor S. Etter*

Eleanor S. Etter  
4717 Homeland Blvd.  
Erie, Pa. 16509

cc - Gov. Shapp

1407 Carter Place  
West Chester, Pa. 1938  
April 27, 1973

Mrs Helene Wolgemuth  
Pa. Dept. of Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pa.

APPROVED

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. No.

As a taxpaying citizen of the State of Pennsylvania I take strenuous objection to your high-handed, arbitrary action in firing the head of that retarded persons home near Pittsburgh. Who do you think you are, in terms of judgment, versus a respected, qualified professional person in the handling of those poor unfortunate people? Does your intelligence(?) go beyond the "motherhood statement of "not keeping human beings in cages," to understand that the safety of others is more important than confinement of potentially violent individuals? It does not "hurt" a person who doesn't have responsible for his own actions to be confined thusly, as it does the one who is injured if the irresponsible one is let loose to do physical harm! My child was never impaired or damaged mentally or otherwise because he was put in a pen to play.

I suggest that instead of retreating to your plush office in Harrisburg after playing God in your do-good fashion that you spend some time managing such a home for retarded, and get first hand experience in doing what is best for society in general at the expense of inconvenience for a few before you remove competent people from their jobs!

signed - J.A. Robertson

FAMILY GUIDANCE CLINIC OF MERCER COUNTY

300 WEST STATE STREET  
SHARON, PENNSYLVANIA 16146

\*     \*

PHONE: 347-4583 OR 347-4584

April 23, 1973

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 30 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Milton J. Shapp  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Governor Shapp:

As concerned professionals we want to voice our opinions concerning the dismissal of Dr. James H. McClelland, Superintendent of Polk State School & Hospital, Polk, Pa. We are strongly opposed to this action.

We have worked with Polk and several of us have seen the facilities. The so-called "cages" were viewed by us as a positive treatment procedure, as a safe, humane way of dealing with violent behavior. To quote Dr. McClelland, "It's an opportunity to separate a patient from the group, but still keep him in the group where he can see and hear the other patients - just like having a child in a playpen in a living room.

We strongly recommend that this decision be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

The Staff

Dawn Delaize, A.C.S.W.

Patricia Woodbridge, caseworker

Michele L. Kantor, MSW

Patricia Means

Frank Berndt

C. Weilbergum, Ph.D.

George P. Main, MSW

Robert Morris

cc: Helen Wohlgemuth, Pa. Welfare Secretary  
Dr. James H. McClelland

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

5th & Main Sts.  
Irwin, Pa. 15642

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 30 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to

The Rev. Paul E. Fauth  
1218 8th St.  
Irwin, Pa. 15642



Telephones  
Church Office - 863-7350  
Parsonage - 863-7304

*Lutheran Church In America*

April 26, 1973

Helene Wohlgemuth, State Welfare Secretary  
State Office Building  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Ms Wohlgemuth,

I am writing in protest of your recent publicity seeking and uncalled for action in the firing of Dr. James H. McClelland as Superintendent and Administrator of the Polk State School and Hospital. As a former pastor in Franklin, Pa. and a regular visitor at the Polk State School, I was able to see first hand the accomplishments which Dr. McClelland brought about during the years he gave of himself at Polk. Now as a member of the Board of Directors of the Westmoreland County Association for Retarded Children, it grieves me deeply to see the spiteful action you have taken against Dr. McClelland, perhaps at the instigation of our own state association officers.

It is quite plain that you have taken this unjust action, without the benefit of a hearing, in order to remove some of the criticism that has been placed on your office for past failures and neglect of your responsibilities concerning the retarded children and adults of our state.

I urge you to reconsider your hasty action in the firing of Dr. McClelland.

*Sincerely,  
Paul E. Fauth*  
Paul E. Fauth

cc: Milton J. Shapp, Governor of Pennsylvania  
Patricia Clapp, President P.A.R.C.  
Elsie Schmidt, President W.A.R.C.

A  
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A

**In CHRIST shall all be made ALIVE**



# aclu harrisburg

50

R. D. 2  
Dillsburg, PA 17019

April 25, 1973

The Honorable Helene Wohlgemuth  
Secretary of Public Welfare  
333 Health & Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Wohlgemuth:

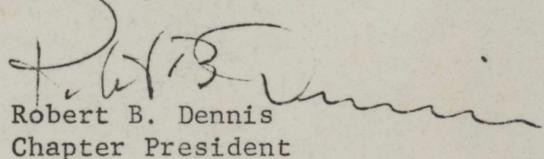
The Harrisburg Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has often been critical of the Department of Public Welfare on matters of the rights of patients within mental institutions and we have not hesitated to criticize the absence of action we considered necessary. Often, I fear, we have failed to command officials who have taken action to insure the constitutional rights and the human dignity of patients.

Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to commend you for ordering the dismantling of dehumanizing cages which have been used routinely in controlling the mentally retarded.

News reports that the Department--whatever that term refers to--was aware of the presence of these cages seems to me quite hollow. I am impressed by the fact that once you as a responsible official saw these for yourself that you spontaneously and immediately ordered their dismantling and moved to change the personnel who had not only tolerated but exploited the presence of these uncivilized devices.

Our Chapter's Patients Rights Task Force continues to have serious objections to Harrisburg State Hospital's policies that abridge the freedom of patients, and we will be in touch with you about these matters over the coming weeks, but your action with respect to Polk State School gives heart to all of us working to insure a dignified existence for patients confined to state hospitals.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Dennis  
Chapter President

american civil liberties union of pennsylvania

P.O. Box 2802 • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105 • 908 Payne Shoemaker Building • 17120-2802

50 YEARS 1920-1970

# MENTAL PATIENT CIVIL LIBERTIES PROJECT

121 South 18th Street - Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 - (215) 561-4715

DAVID FERLEGER  
Director

April 26, 1973

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Ms. Helene Wohlgemuth  
Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pa.

APR 27 1973  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
Ref. to

Re: Firing of Supt. McClelland

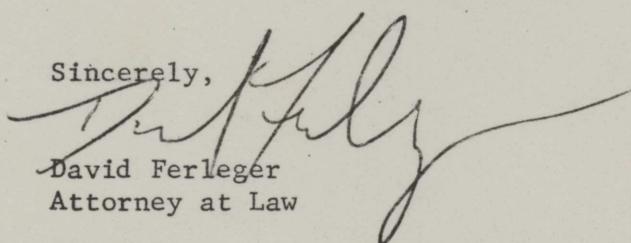
Dear Secretary Wohlgemuth:

As you know, our organization is involved in active day-to-day work with mental patients in the Philadelphia area and at Haverford State Hospital. We are most concerned about assuring that institutional conditions and administrators support the welfare and rights of patients.

Because of our concern, we wish to express total support for your decision to order the dismantling of the "cages/pens" at the Polk institution and the firing of its superintendent. We feel that this action was most consistent with your duties as Secretary of Public Welfare. We hope that, despite the criticism of you from some quarters, you will remain steadfast in your resolve to end this and other inhumane practices in state schools and hospitals.

If we can be of any assistance to you in this area, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
David Ferleger  
Attorney at Law

Received by  
SECRETARY OF STATE

APR 26 1973  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to

123 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102  
April 26, 1973

Hon. Helene Wohlgemuth, Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
333 Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

I am writing to you regarding your courageous actions in dealing with the most primitive conditions at Polk State School and Hospital.

I have been employed as a coordinator in The Right to Education Office for one year. As part of my professional duties, I work with the intermediate units in which Selinsgrove, Laurelton, White Haven and Polk are located. On many occasions, I have visited all of these facilities. During these visits I was very impressed with what I saw, with the exception of Polk. It bewildered me to see such lackadaisical and crude treatment of patients. I could not understand why the other facilities I visited are able to do so much more with the same types of residents. Certainly there must be more to it than the newness of the physical plant or the ability level of the residents.

The change of attitudes and actions will certainly be necessary if Polk is to achieve the same high standards of the other facilities which I have visited. Through your brave actions, this change has begun. May I applaud you for your willingness to cause a turnaround in what so often seems to be a never-ending, self-perpetuating situation. You were courageous enough to take a stand and to fight to improve a most inhumane treatment of those who cannot fight for themselves.

Very truly yours,

Louis G. Mete

P.S. I am writing this note in my official capacity but as a private citizen.

Turbotville, I7772. Pennsylvania. April 26th. 1973.

Sec.of Welfare,  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sec:

Congratulations, Mrs. Sec. on your firing of the James McClellan, I support you on your fine Judgement on the conditions you found at the Institution you Surprise Visited a few days ago. I'm a supporter of our Gov. Milton Shapp, But a Reg'd Republican.

My first vote was 1906 to 1932 I voted for FDR. but then Supported the Republican Party Registered 1963 on paper.

Yes I heard the Mouthy President of the Retarded Childrens Department What has she got to say over you ? Don't let ousiders Discourage you, that is the Violent kind of people that is doing so much of the Damaging Criminal Acts. By Criminals and other that are taking a part, defending crime and the Criminals. Keep up your fine work.

I'm a Handi-Cap Shutin since June 1965 all I can do is Listen to the N.B.C. News and Country Western Music. 12 to 18 Hrs. per day.

Sincerely, *Ralph Waldo Emerson Fuller*, my Birth Name  
Ralph W.E. Fuller. *for Emerson*.

Dear Sec. of Welfare,

I support the  
firing of McClellan.  
What he did has  
been inexcusable.

Sincerely yours  
Fathenne Rothkrug  
1880 Shaw Ave  
Pgh. Pa 15217

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

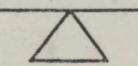
APR 20 1973

Ref. to

Welfare



HOME FOR  
CRIPPLED  
CHILDREN



Regional Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center for Children and Youth

1426 Denniston Avenue / Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217 / Area Code 412 521-9000

Charles H. Bisdee, Executive Director  
John A. Wilson, Associate Director  
T. P. Hipkens, Senior Consultant

Dear Mrs. Secretary -

I support your attempt to better conditions, services and programs in our state institutions.

I'm glad you're not afraid to "shake em up" when the welfare of people is at stake.

Sincerely,  
Bob Caughlin

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 29 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Rec'd. 12

**INDUSTRIES, INC.**

SHEFFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 16347

May 21, 1973

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth:  
Department of Public Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

The parents of the residents of Polk State School  
are not Worried; they are angry.

What the parents, most of the employees and most  
of the residents want is for Dr. McClelland to be  
reinstated and we will not really be satisfied  
with any other arrangement.

It is beyond me how anyone could have so much  
authority as to FIRE someone without an investi-  
gation. I have suggested to Governor Shapp that  
you be obliged to wear a straight jacket for one  
day and work one week in the worst division of the  
school before you pass judgment.

When I brought my son home for Easter, he had a  
cut and swollen lip and jaw and no one knew how it  
had happened. He is unable to tell anyone when  
someone hurts him and there are so many to watch,  
it is absolutely necessary that the violent ones  
be restrained some way and the cages sound much  
more pleasant than a room in which the person can't  
even see the others or be near them; also better  
than restraining belts and jackets etc.

The real fault is with our unrealistic society  
that forces existence on those poor creatures who  
would be better off dead, since they aren't really  
living.

Yours very

*Lillian*  
(Mrs.) Lillian

continue my  
new methods of

Alan Levin  
311 Arlington Rd.

### *Polk Dispute*

The letter in the 'Letters to the Editor' column recently in regard to the firing of Dr. McClelland from Polk State School, expressed my feelings also.

I have two daughters at Polk, and as hard as it was to believe Dr. Gannon's prediction, that they would be happier at Polk than they were at home, because they would be with people of their own mentality, proved to be true. At the end of the six weeks waiting period, when my husband and I arrived at Polk to spend the day with them, though they were very happy to see us, and enjoyed going to lunch, shopping, and for a nice long ride with us, they were anxious to get back to their friends in their cottage, even though they were not in the same cottage. Dr. Gannon also told us that it was the best school in the country, and that no matter what political party was in Harrisburg, the management of Polk was never interfered with. Dr. Norbert Gannon was a noted pediatrician, who passed away some years ago.

Dr. McClelland has always been very cooperative in regards to the girls coming home for visits etc. and I be-

lieve it is the only school in the State, where you can visit a patient any day of the week, which should certainly give a person some idea as to how well it is run!

My two daughters are very happy there and have been for almost sixteen years, and now especially since my husband has passed away, I am glad that we were convinced, when Janet was given a test for Special Classes, that we were not likely to outlive our daughters, and they would be well taken care of. The Dr. who gave Janet that test convinced me of that, and the applications were in about six years, before we heard from Polk.

I wonder if Mrs. Wohlgemuth realizes just how many sleepless nights she has given the parents of patients at Polk! From all indications, it is a political move, and it is just too bad that the patients at Polk and their relatives as WELL as parents have to be so worried and upset, by someone who evidently does not know or possibly CARE, who gets hurt by her actions!  
Mrs. Wilfred (Mary) Froehlich

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All Letters to the Editor must be properly signed with the writer's name, address and telephone number. Anonymity is out. Letters should be addressed to: Letters to the Editor, Erie Times-News, W. 12th, Erie, Pa., 16501.

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**'REHABILITATION' AT STATE EXPENSE**

# Delinquents Get Casino Junkets

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania Auditor Gen. Robert Casey says he's learned that juvenile delinquents committed to a rehabilitation center near Philadelphia were being taken to a New Jersey night club supposedly as part of their retraining.

"I can readily understand the need to maintain rehabilitation programs for juveniles, but to spend public money for junkets to expensive night clubs borders on the ridiculous," he said in a letter to Welfare Secretary Helene Wohlgemuth.

According to Casey, delinquents at the Youth Development Center at Cornwells Heights in Bucks County were taken by

counselors to the Latin Casino at Cherry Hill, N.J., on six occasions. The tab for meals, transportation and counselor working time came to more than \$1,000, he said.

An aide to Mrs. Wohlgemuth responded to Casey: "The information contained in your letter also came to the attention of the secretary. At that time the secretary ordered . . . the practice stopped immediately; second, that an investigation be conducted to determine the appropriateness of the expenditure of funds for such trips."

Casey gave this list of night club trips:

—Nov. 20, six juveniles and a counselor

dined and caught the Ray Charles show for a cost of \$132.52.

—Jan. 22, six juveniles and a counselor, dinner, Jerry Butler show, \$137.52.

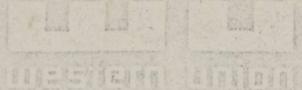
—Jan. 25, 12 juveniles and five counselors, dinner, Jerry Butler show, \$36.92.

—Feb. 15, six juveniles and a counselor, dinner, Temptations and Supremes show, \$123.72.

—Feb. 25, the same entertainment for 10 more juveniles and two counselors, \$220.64.

—April 11, 10 juveniles and five counselors, dinner, Al Green show, \$409.92.

• What! No Firing?



# Telegram

HGBD96(1012)(24260295E117)PD 04/27/75 1012

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

4122315584 TDMT PITTSBURGH PA 27 04-27 1012A EST  
FON 7177872600 OR 3600

MRS HELENE WOHLGEMUTH SECRETARY  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE P.O.  
BX 2675

HARRISBURG PA 17120

DEAR MRS WOHLGEMUTH THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER PARC FULLY  
SUPPORTS YOUR EFFORTS RE POLK WE STAND READY TO OFFER WHATEVER  
ASSISTANCE IS POSSIBLE PLEASE ADVISE US

NORMAN W. MULGRAVE PRESIDENT ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER PENNSYLVANIA  
ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

*Ed C.*  
*C. C. Sees*



# Telegram

WGC095(1115)(2-130129E114)PD 04/24/73 1115

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

Received -

1973 APR SECRETARY'S 39

7172364051 TDMT HARRISBURG PA 86 04-24 1115A EST

APR 24 1973

PMS HELENE WOHLGEMUTH, DLR

DEPT. OF PUBLIC

333 HEALTH AND WELFARE BUILDING

Ref. to Ed

HARRISBURG PA 17120

LET THE RECORD BE CLEAR THAT AFSCME, AFL-CIO, SUPPORTS LOCAL CC: *Sentry*

1050 POLK STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL IN ITS PRESENT STRUGGLE.

LET THE RECORD ALSO SHOW THAT THE MEMBERS OF THIS LOCAL UNION  
UNDER THE MOST INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS HAVE TREATED THE PATIENTS  
AS THIS INSTITUTION WHICH HUMANNESSE AND COMPASSION.

THE MEMBERS OF OUR UNION AT POLK SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR  
UNDERSTANDING AND DEDICATION NOT ATTACKED.

WE REQUEST YOUR OFFICE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO SET THE  
RECORD STRAIGHT ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS

GERALD W MCGENTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFSCME AFL-CIO COUNCIL

SF-1201 (R5-69)



# Telegram

TBD108(1032)(2-195898E109)PD 04/19/73 1032

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

4123353688 TDMD NEW KENSINGTON PA 8 04-19 1032A EST  
FON 7177872121

HELENA WOHLGEMUTH  
BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG PA 17120

DEMAND REINSTATEMENT OF DR JAMES H MCCLELLAND JR  
PAULINE SCANDROL

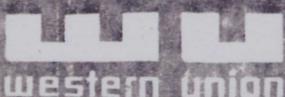
Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APR 24 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

TO	DF	DA/BSY
TIME	10589	DA/BSY
BY	PJ	DA/BSY
DISPOSITION	Mail	DA/BSY



# Telegram

HGA001(0008)(2-186283E109)PD 04/19/73 0008

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP *SPO*

4123810210 NL TDMT PITTSBURGH PA 575 04-19 0008A EST 1973 APT 91 YM 9/3 49

PMS HELENA WOLDEMOOTH, DLR

STATE CAPITOL BLDG

HARRISBURG PA

Received by  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

MY NAME IS CHARLES [REDACTED], YOU HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB NOW THESE STATE PEOPLE AT THAT HOSPITAL FROM THE WAY I GOT THE NEWS ABOUT WHAT THIS DOCTOR AND THIS PRIEST SAID THEY ARE TRYING TO BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR THEMSELVES TO STAND ON. NOW THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD THESE CAGES BUILT AND PUT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE INTO THEM TO STOP THE PEOPLE FROM KILLING ONE ANOTHER. THATS THE ONE WHOM THEY MUST NOT HAVE TRUSTED. NOW IF A CRIMINALLY INSANE PLACE LIKE WHAT I HAVE BEEN IN AROUND MEN THAT WELL WILL KILL YOU AS WELL AS LOOK AT YOU DIDN'T KILL ONE ANOTHER OR SOMEBODY DOWN THERE, THEN WHY IS IT A PLACE LIKE THIS FOOLISH DOCTOR

SF-1201 (R5-69)



# Telegram

WAS RUNNING MAYBE WITH NO CRIMINALLY INSANE PERSONS THERE WOULD KILL SOMEBODY. THE REASON I KNOW ALL OF THIS I HAD TO FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF FAIRVIEW STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE TO LIVE TO TELL THE TALE. I HAD THE GUARD AFRAID OF ME THAT IS WHY THEY DIDN'T BEAT ME LIKE THEY DID THE REST AND STOMP THEM WHEN THEY TOLD SOME OF THEM CRAZY PEOPLE TO GO UP ALONG SIDE OF MY HEAD. THIS DOCTORS HE'S AS PHONY AS A CONTERFEIT DOLLAR BILL AND SOME OF THEM CRAZY PEOPLE WILL BE ON HIS SIDE BECAUSE THEY ARE WEAK MINDED AND SOME OF THEIR FAMILIES TOO WILL BE ON HIS SIDE. MY NAME IS CHARLES [REDACTED]. I AM AN X-UNPROFESSIONAL PRIZE FIGHTER ABOVE THAT I ALSO KNOW JUDO AND JUJITSU REAL WELL AND THAT WAS WHY I COULD FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF THE PLACE. THEY PUT SOMETHING IN MY FOOD DOWN IN HUNTINGTON WHERE THAT MAKES MY BODY BURN SOME WAY NOW AND THEN NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY

SF-1201 (R5-69)



western union

Telegram

PARTLY WHY THEY PUT THE WORKS TO ME THIS NEW ELECTRONIC WAY OF BUGGING PEOPLE. YOU DONT HAVE A THING TO WORRY ABOUT JUST DONT FORGET ONE THING. THE HEAD DOCTOR IS NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIRED AND LOCKED UP FOR IT CAUSE WHAT HE KNOWS HIS FAMILY KNOWS TOO PLUS THE WORKERS WHO RELEIVE HIS COMMAND KNOW WHAT WAS SHAKING TOO. IF YOU WANT TO YOU CAN WRITE TO THE UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPERS THEY HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THE FAIRVIEW STATE HOSPITAL BUT HAD NO PROOF. I AM OUT ON THE STREET AND I CAN PROVE WHAT I SAID AND NOBODY CAN SAY I AM SICK IN THE HEAD OR CRAZY OR THAT I EVER WAS CRAZY. I ALSO GOT PROOF FROM PATIENTS THERE THAT WERE NOT CRAZY TOO BUT I DONT NEED THEM  
YOURS SINCERELY

CHARLES [REDACTED]

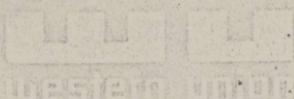
SF-1201 (R5-69)

western union

Telegram

FROM THAT PLACE I AM AND THAT WAS WHY I TOLD MY WIFE IF EVER I SHOULD DIE TO HAVE AN AUTOPSY ON MY BODY AND ALL THE TROUBLE OCCURRED BECAUSE I CAUGHT THIS GUARD DOING SOMETHING THAT HE HAD NO BUSINESS DOING. I DID NOT CHICKEN OUT ABOUT SUING THOSE PEOPLE THATS WHY THEY TRIED TO BUG ME AND KEPT TRANSFERRING ME ACROSS THE STATE LINE TO DIFFERENT CRAZY HOUSES AND THE PEOPLE THAT I SEEN CAME UP TO FAIRVIEW STATE HOSPITAL TO LOOK AROUND SHE'LL BE SURPRISED IF I CALL THEIR NAMES AND TELL HER WHAT POSITION THESE PEOPLE WERE IN. THEY WERE FROM STATE TROOPERS ON UP. YOU SEE I BOUGHT OUT MY PLACE OF MY OWN BUSINESS SO WHEN I COME HOME CHEETA THE BIGGEST CAT IN THE WORLD, IT IS ORANGE AL OVER WITH BLACK SPOTS. I COULD HAVE MY COMPANY WITH THE SAME NAME THAT MAKE TYPEWRITERS THE SAME COLOR AS THIS CAT IS AND I BOUGHT OUT SOME GOOD POLICE WEAPONS AGAINST CRIME THAT IS

SF-1201 (R5-69)



# Telegram

HGB091(0957)(1-007736A117)FD 04/27/73, 0956

ICS IPMOAPA ALTA

01020 FRANKLIN PENN 4-27 910AEST

MRS HELEN WOHLGEMUTH DEPT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
HARRISBURG PENN

THE VENANGO CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOC OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
UNAMINCEOUSLY AND STRONGLY DISAPPROVED OF THE DISMISSAL OF DR  
JAMES MCCLELLAND JR OF SUPT OF POLK STATE SCHOOL AND  
HOSPITAL WE FEEL THAT HIS RELEASE WAS UNWARRANTED AND WE  
QUESTION THE MOTIVES LEADING TO HIS RELEASE WE URGENTLY  
RECOMMEND THAT A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION BE  
INSTITUTED IMMEDIATELY

MRS GEORGE DALMASO PRESIDENT AAUW FRANKLIN PA

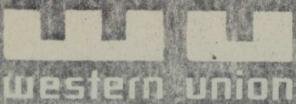
APR 28 1973

TELETYPE CO. INC. 1973

Ref. 16

Ed C

ccs Secy



# Telegram

HGC102(1132)(2-130965E114)PD 04/24/73 1132  
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
APR 24 AM 11 40

4125219000 TDNT PITTSBURGH PA 49 04-24 1132A EST

APR 24 1973

PMS MRS HELENE WOHLGEMUTH

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WELFARE DESIGNATE ROOM 113A MAIN CAPITOL

*Ed*  
*cc: Seitz*

BLDG

HARRISBURG PA 17120

DEAR MRS WOHLGEMUTH AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MATERNAL AND CHILD  
HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH LET ME COMMEND YOU ON  
YOUR RECENT ACTION AT POLK STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL. IT WAS  
CLEARLY IN THE DIRECTION OF IMPROVING SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HANDICAPPE  
D CHILDREN.

JOHN A WILSON 26 THORNCREST DR PITTSBURGH PA 15235

1207 chestnut street • philadelphia, pennsylvania 19107 • LOct 8-1495

Pennsylvania  
Mental  
Health, inc.

April 27, 1973

The Hon. Milton J. Shapp  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Governor Shapp:

We are aware of the situation which has developed recently at Polk State School, and it was discussed by our Executive Committee yesterday. Without commenting at all about the process by which this situation was handled by the Department of Public Welfare, we want to express our complete agreement with the view that restraints such as the pens and cages used at Polk are incompatible with modern and humane treatment methods and should be forbidden at all institutions for the mentally disabled.

There is no evidence whatever that mentally disabled persons are more inclined toward assaultive or violent behavior than are any other persons or groups.

Furthermore, we think that the use of such restraints illustrates the need for continuing public awareness and for action with respect to the conditions in Pennsylvania's institutions.

Staff must be attuned to humane treatment and to the primary goal of strengthening the individual patient's capacity to reenter society. A custodial or "warehouse" approach is not acceptable.

PMH is categorically opposed to inhumane methods of care and to the concept of permanent institutionalization of people. We urge you to ensure that all institutional treatment be mandated to further the patient's earliest release to a community facility and to support much needed development of community services.

Our major efforts are toward replacement of institutions by local facilities or integrating them into community-based programs. So long as institutions do exist we will not abandon our concern that humane and appropriate care be afforded those who still remain within their walls.

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
APR 27 1973  
DPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
Ref. to Seitz



The Hon. Milton J. Shapp

-2-

April 27, 1973

This statewide citizens' organization stands ready to assist you in these endeavors. We further pledge our full support to you in your efforts to procure adequate funding to effect such institutional changes and to develop needed community services for the mentally disabled.

Very truly yours,

*Hilda Robbins*  
Mrs. Jack W. Robbins  
President

*Harry J. Rubin*  
Harry J. Rubin, Esq.  
Chairman of the Board

HHR:HJR/jr

cc--Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth ✓  
William B. Beach, Jr., M.D.  
Edward R. Goldman

# 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

The Honorable Milton J. Shapp  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

MAY 9 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

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

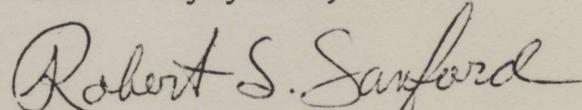
May 8, 1973  
Page 2

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 ✓

VILLA MARIA COLLEGE

2551 WEST LAKE ROAD, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16505

VMC

Division of  
Nursing

May 7, 1973

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 9 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Helene Wohlgemuth  
Secretary of Welfare  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Secretary Wohlgemuth:

I would be gravely remiss in my responsibilities as a professional nurse and as a resident of Northwestern Pennsylvania if I failed to communicate to you my strong support of your decision to dismiss Dr. James McClelland, superintendent at Polk State School and Hospital.

Many health professionals throughout Pennsylvania, and especially in our area, have long been aware of the archaic and punitive practices employed by personnel at Polk in the name of "acceptable or safe" treatment. We are equally cognizant of Senator Frame's numerous attempts to dilute quality health care by supporting unsound health education programs and health delivery practices.

Unfortunately your concerned and courageous action will undoubtedly be rewarded by a wave of vigorous protest and personal attack from certain "vested interest" groups. Throughout the onslaught I do hope that you will remember that you have an equally large but relatively "silent" group of supporters.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy J. Novello, mph*

Dr. Dorothy J. Novello  
Chairman  
Division of Nursing  
Chairman  
State Board of Nurse Examiners

DJN:nfh

cc: The Honorable Milton Shapp, Governor



*the University of Alabama in Birmingham /* 1720 SEVENTH AVENUE SOUTH / BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35233  
*the Medical Center /* CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL AND LEARNING DISORDERS

May 17, 1973

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 22 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
Ref. to

Honorable Milton J. Shapp  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
State Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Shapp,

I was very dismayed to learn of the decision to relieve Dr. James McClelland of his duties as Superintendent of Polk State School and Hospital. On the occasions I visited and worked at Polk State School and Hospital conducting management training sessions, I observed the conditions of employee performance and morale remarkably high under Dr. McClelland's leadership.

In my many associations and professional endeavors with superintendents and other management personnel employed in institutions for the retarded throughout the United States, I may have met superintendents who performed as effectively as Dr. McClelland, but certainly none who performed better.

In the interest of the retarded individuals served by Dr. McClelland and his staff, I sincerely hope that the order that terminated his employment as superintendent will be rescinded.

Sincerely,

*William E. Garove*

William E. Garove, Ph.D.  
Associate Director  
Management Training Program

cc: Mrs. Helen Wohlgemuth, Secretary of Public Welfare  
Mr. Edward L. Goldman, Commissioner, Office of Mental Retardation  
Dr. James McClelland, Polk State School and Hospital

WEG/pcs  
5/17/73

Dorothea Weston Wohlforth

Received by  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Exercise more care when you condemn a man of Dr. Jas.  
McClelland's standards in the future, particularly since you are an  
uneducated woman. It is believed you should be made to retract  
your previous statements which was incorrect to say the least.  
What medical or mental training do you have? Dr. Jas. McClelland  
was an excellent man and capable of filling the position he  
occupied at Park until you came along.

To whom it may concern  
I am writing to you  
as my son spent 29  
years in Path school and  
he said he thought about  
about Dr. Mc Clelland  
as he was a Doctor  
there a long time  
and to me any one  
who worked with  
them for long must  
of done his job  
I was sorry to hear of  
your friend Mr. Dr. it  
he spent many years  
up there looking after

2  
I attacked I met  
him as I think he  
was a very nice  
man.  
And I don't think  
you will ever get  
another man to take  
his place.  
Well I hope he gets  
his job back  
but to me he was  
a good gentle man.  
and my son liked him  
very much as he was a  
patient there for 3 years  
but got discharged  
from there 2 years ago.

And the best fit  
all attached children

S. & L Edwards

and Elizabeth

Received in  
SECOND FLOOR OFFICE  
MAY 26 1973

polk-state-school-and  
hosp.box-94-polke

DEPT. OF POLK COUNTY

May-20;1973

Let to Say.

d ear-hi-mrs. wohlgemuth

i have something -to say about polk school ilkeit here.

we get good food we have andtt h e accs

are grater we have the band polk-a-dot chruse i work in the  
we goto movies ego bingo makerugs play basketball baseball the kids go swimming

bowling fishing and also the pt is grater here this year i went to the vo-tech school  
in oil city from 3.00 to 8:45 pm monday-thursday

i am so bizzy that i ju st have half hour a day to myself everyday pm wr it eng  
this letter to you at work i will write my planes daily starting at 6:00 pm  
get up get dressed 9:7:00 wash up for first meal eat at 7:00 7:45 mon.  
8:00 to 9:00 go to pt when i come back from pt i go to work from 9:30 to 11:30 am

then when i went to the vo-tech school i took a bath 11:45 to 12:00 am

then ate i uch then at 2:00 pm went to vo-tech until 7:45 pm came back sat and  
watch tv until bedtime tuesday goto churse from 8:45 to 9:45 pm

eat dinner at 5:30 6:00 pm daiy the fist friday of the evry munth have bingo  
and its loter fun here we have circus day sept/22 1973 all day from 6:00

9:00 for one week every year and we also have a circus at the hosp  
and all so i would like to ask why we have to read all this the papers and on  
tv why wont you come out her for open house and circus usday and see for your  
self and all so you do not have to ask weewash hour hand and face we are  
are w0tpirty kids we all take abath i think why you do not what to come up  
is because you think i will fight with you i just what to talk .. please  
when you come let me idonot kikesome

pr. paul-  
togaen.

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 25 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to Secy

May 16, 1973

Mrs. Helene Wohlgemuth, Secretary  
Department of Public Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mrs. Wohlgemuth:

Cameron County Association of Retarded Children would like to take this opportunity to register their disapproval of the handling of the discharge of Dr. McClelland from Polk State School and Hospital. More complete investigation and hearing should be held, both of the conditions at Polk and Dr. McClellands responsibility for these conditions. Also we believe that Dr. McClelland should have recognition for his years of service to the school and the review of his case as an employee of the State of Pennsylvania.

We are of the opinion that if sufficient moneies were available from the Department of Public Welfare those objectionable measures would not have to have been used if proper programs could have been instituted.

Sincerely,

*Inez Jordan*

(Mrs.) Inez Jordan  
President

CAMERON COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
of RETARDED CHILDREN

cc: Governor Milton J. Shapp  
Senator Joseph Ammerman  
Representative Victor J. Westerberg  
Representative Mullen

May 16, 1973

Mrs Helene Wolgemuth  
Department of Public Welfare  
Harrisburg, Pa.

*Say*

Dear Mrs Wolgemuth:

We have been very pleased with the care our son Dale has received at Polk State School. We have watched with interest the EGO program and I have talked about it at several meetings.

Since moving to Pittsburgh from Beaver County I have been able to employ a number of people who lived at Polk and now are in Transitional Services. I may not always agree with your methods but as was once said many years ago, I shall defend your right to do what you believe to be right.

Dr McClelland my wife and I have become friends over the years since our son Dale has been at Polk. I was upset at the manner in which Dr McClelland was removed from office but then we dont know all the answers. In my travels around the State I believe Polk to be one of the better institutions.

I was very active in Beaver County PARC and Beaver County Mental Health Society. I have tried diligently to be objective in the approach to problems of care and training of those who cannot help themselves.

I firmly believe that with all the past studies we have done in this Commonwealth we must move ahead with the information available to improve the lot of the mentally disadvantaged person.

Yours very truly,

*G.A.*  
George A.

Received  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 18 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to *Dorsey*

Village of Olde Forge West  
6B21  
Morristown, N.J. 07960  
May 16, 1973

Secretary of Welfare, Helene Wohlgemuth  
Harrisburg, Penna.

Dear Ms. Wohlgemuth:

I read with great interest the brief article about the situation at Polk State School and your action in firing the superintendent. There is of course more to the story than the article describes, but having been involved in working both with retarded children and with so-called delinquent children in Indiana and in Delaware, I have learned how to read a bit between the lines.

To the uninitiated, the idea of putting people in "pens" is horrifying. After working with such people, however, I came to the conclusion that if they were properly used such devices were far and away the most humane, for all concerned. If your child was assaulted by an ungovernable peer in such an institution, you would want the ungovernable child restrained. If your child was so destructive, you would hope that he could be retrained...and filling the child full of tranquilizers, isolating him entirely from others, or physically punishing him just doesn't retrain him properly.

I don't know Dr. McClelland, but it is certainly rare for both staff and patients to express such regard for the person at the top of an institution of this sort. It is a thankless job, at best. I saw many idealistic programs start, and fade away due to lack of money, understanding, cooperation, unity of staff purpose, education, etc. This in turn made many very good people quit in despair...everyone needs to see the results of their labors in some way, and when you deal with the retarded, you do not get thanks from them, as you might if you were a medical doctor who cured you of a painful ailment.

It was my conclusion that both restraint and retraining were equally needed in such institutions. But you can get surprises. In one institution for delinquents that I worked in, an "isolation cell" was kept as a "last resort" for inmates who failed to cooperate and appreciate the relatively open program. Within two weeks of opening the facility, we had to create two more of these cells because the boys begged to go in them to protect them from the more aggressive inmates who assaulted and raped the new boys as they arrived if they refused to "cooperate" and "submit" to their demands! So you have to really understand the situation before you jump to conclusions. An institution is NOT like an open society, and it never can be.

With best wishes for your success. I'm sure you are deeply dedicated to improving a sad situation. Sincerely,

*Dorsey de Raismes*

Ms. Dorsey de Raismes

S. A. G.

Received in  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAY 29 1973

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Ref. to \_\_\_\_\_

May 3, 1973

4618 Wayne Ave.

N. Germantown, Pa.

19144

Dear Miss Helene Wohlgemuth;

I am happy to see you have a strong instinct; for decency; as you proved; by speaking; and carrying out; your beliefs at the Polk State Hospital

I think you showed imprudence; and bad judgment in the matter.

I swear; where decency is concerned; I love you for it.

Your sex should be proud of you.  
Decency is more important; than; prudence and mature judgment.

S.A.G.

#

May I wish you every success  
in your good work.

I hope you will be followed  
by those who come after you; with  
your integrity.

I will remember you in my  
prayers from time to time.

Be happy  
in your good  
work, John Warren