

Polk
file

February 10, 1975

The Honorable Norman Taylor
Deputy Secretary - DPW
702 State Office Building
300 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222

Dear Norman,

Our Residential Care Committee is appalled that new admissions are being accepted at Polk State School and Hospital. Why did you let this occur?

Did the Department use all its resources to fight the court admission? Did high-level Department officials testify to Polk's inability to deliver proper care and treatment for this individual? Did Department officials arrange and propose funding for an alternative program for this individual? Did the Department have qualified legal counsel to present the case in opposition to admission? Did the Department offer expert testimony from knowledgeable consultants on the potential danger of this admission?

Regardless of the Department's willingness or unwillingness to vigorously fight this court admission, we would have tried. Why didn't you call on us to help? Any admission to Polk defeats your goals for the Polk Dispersal Project. Why can't the Department (your office) take a firm stand and try to win? Why are we breaking our necks trying to reduce the Polk population when you are permitting new admissions?

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We are disappointed and angered.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Virginia Thornburgh
President

ACC-PARC Residential
Care Committee

VJT:cp

CC: Frank Beal
C. A. Peters
Joe Colombatto

BCC: Peter Polloni
Marlene Burda
Ronald Archer
Sally Hollyfield
Midge Scannell
Ann Winkler
Doug Spencer