

news

from



Allegheny County Chapter

of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, Inc.
917-1001 Brighton Road Pittsburgh, Pa 15233

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November 30, 1972
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK" will be the subject for a general membership meeting sponsored by the Allegheny County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children (ACC-PARC). The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, at 8:00 P.M. in Room 308 of the Y.W.C.A., Wood Street, Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Virginia Thornburgh, Chairman of ACC-PARC's State Schools & Interim Care Committee, will discuss "Why We Cry". A member of the ACC-PARC Inspection Team and Department of Public Welfare Western Regional Review Committee, Mrs. Barbara Sistik, will divulge "What We Look For". Mrs. Jean Isherwood, Chairman of the PARC Interim Care Facilities Committee, will elaborate on the need for programs in her segment titled "Beds - Not People ". "Are Things Changing" will be the subject discussed by Bob Nelkin, Director of ACC-PARC's Community & Chapter Affairs Division.

In order to give a balance to the program, a reactor panel will give their viewpoint on residential services for the mentally retarded. This panel will include Walter Bennett, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health & Mental Retardation for DPW's Western Regional Office; Robert Hiltner, Administrator of Western State School & Hospital; and Ken Winograd, Associate Administrator of the Allegheny County MH/MR Program.

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C. A. Peters, Executive Director of ACC-PARC, will serve as moderator for the panel and Norman W. Mulgrave, President of the organization will preside. Since the alleged forced drowning of Louis Novak, a mentally retarded youth from Sharpsburg, in a state supported interim care facility last August, residential services for retarded citizens have become a timely subject.

The public is invited to attend this meeting to hear first hand reports about conditions in state institutions and interim care facilities; the role of inspection teams; and the rights of parents and residents. Ample time will be allocated for questions.

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