

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania's Secretary of Public Welfare, Frank Beal, will address a public meeting sponsored by the Allegheny County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens (ACC-PARC) on Saturday, November 20. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Bell Telephone Building Auditorium in downtown Pittsburgh. Secretary Beal has been asked to outline the Commonwealth's five-year plan for the development of community-based residential facilities and programs as alternatives to the institutionalization of children and adults who are mentally retarded.

This is the third in a series of meetings sponsored by ACC-PARC concerned with the State's plans for community alternatives to institutionalization. Ms. Mary Wilson, ACC's parent member who was instrumental in initiating the meetings, questions why funds projected for residences needed in Allegheny County next year are zero, although "the Commonwealth is committed philosophically to the establishment of such facilities."

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHAPTER
Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens

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At the second meeting, held June 26, parents charged Secretary Beal with three responsibilities: 1) to make the State's five-year plan for residential alternatives more ambitious; 2) to assure that the funds currently allocated are used effectively; and 3) to ask the Legislature to appropriate more money in this fiscal year. On November 20, Mr. Beal to expected to declare the intentions of the Department of Public Welfare on these specific points and on the overall subject of the present and future care of handicapped residents of Pennsylvania.

ACC-PARC has issued an appeal to families of all people who are in need of residential placements, urging them to attend this meeting. Additional information is available at the Chapter office, 1001 Brighton Rd., Pgh., Pa. 15233, phone 322-6008.

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