

*OK
December*

1067 Devon Road
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

December 3, 1973

Mr. Robert J. Hiltner, Superintendent
Western State School and Hospital
333 Curry Hill Road
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317

Dear Bob,

Here are the questions arising from the visits of May 12
and August 22, 1973, to Western State School and Hospital.

I am sending copies of this report to the persons who
were on the two visitation teams.

Thank you for your patience and interest.

Sincerely,

Virginia J. Thornburgh
First Vice-President
ACC-PARC

VJT:ng
Encl.

Aug 23
Aug. 22 -
evening visit
Cedar I
Gettysburg

Cedar I -

1. Volunteers

- observation. (a) there were no volunteers present on the unit
(b) staff members were bathing residents.
two were in the bathroom
one was was shuttling the children in and out
(c) there were 40 residents and 3 staff members
(d) the children were very receptive to us as visitors.
they smiled, giggled, or talked to us.

2. Program

- observation. (a) there was no programming on the unit.
the evening activity consisted of bathing, and preparing for bed
(b) spontaneously some of the girls were singing,
(one singing I've got the whole world in my hands)
some girls engaged in discussions with us,
some girls writing home to sister
("how do you spell 'social'?")
one girl sang a very sweet hymn upon request,

3. Facilities and Equipment

- observation. (a) porta lift-one attendant stated ~~the porta~~ this machine used
to lift heavy residents in and out of tub is not being used
because of a shortage of sheets
(b) air conditioners-one staff member stated that air conditioning
equipment was on grounds but not operative because the expense
of converting the heating unit to a heating and cooling unit
was not approved.

4. Cleanliness

- observation. (a) the unit was clean.
(b) some of the girls had a very unpleasant mouth odor.

Cedar II- Pediatrics

1. Volunteers-

- observation. (a) There were no volunteers.
(b) There were 36 residents and 3 attendants (2 @ night)
(c) The residents responded to the attention by the visitors.

2. Program

- observation. (a) The T.V. was blaring.
(b) No resident was watching the T.V.

3. care

- observation (a) One child, lying on the floor, had a profusely running nose
(b) Another child had an open ~~wound~~ head sore blood was dripping
on the floor
(c) Two children were lying in wet diapers

4. Facilities and Equipment

- observations (a) the environment was brutal, harsh, and cold.
(b) children were lying on the cold concrete floors
(c) playpens are used for several of the children

5. Restraints

- observation (a) crib type cages and nylon netting were used on this unit during night
(b) one girl struggled trying to sit up-she was unable to sit up because of the netting, continually

6. Feeding

- observations (a) Mrs Goodman stated no additional staff are added during meal times
(b) teachers aides and residents may assist with feeding
(c) resident feeders do get training
(d) resident feeders are less able than the past.
The More able resident feeders have graduated into the community.

Cedar III

1. Volunteers

- observations (a) there were no volunteers
(b) the ~~mm~~ residents were very receptive to the attention given by the visitors. in fact some of the residents were excited and aggressively approaching us.

2. Staff

- observations (a) One attendant was very receptive to the visitors questions
(b) One attendant seemed to have the role of guarding and patrolling

3. Care

- Observations (a) one girl was continually banging her head on the pink cushioned chair she was sitting on.
(b) no staff approached her to stop

4. Program

- observations (a) there was no record player out on the unit
(b) previous experience on this unit indicates the girls like music.
(c) one girl had a portable radio -there were few personal possessions

5. Population

- observations (a) the residents on Cedar III are bigger and more active than other units
(b) some of the residents were off the unit at a recreation program
(c) even with a reduced population-this unit seemed confining to the residents

Cedar 4

1. Volunteers

- Observation. (a) There are no volunteers
(b) The residents responded enthusiastically to the attention from the visitors.

2. Program

- Observation. (a) There was no programming on the unit
(b) A few residents were watching t.v.
(c) There was a request for a trip to Kennywood or a similar amusement park.

3. Care

- Observation. (a) Five girls had just had their hair washed
(b) There was no male attendant on this unit or on any ~~other unit~~. of the other units observed.