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CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER
R. D. #6
Dinnerbell Road
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001

November 29, 1972

(Unannounced Visit)

Inspection Team: Nelkin, O'Sullivan, Hollyfield, Thornburgh

Thomas E. Bridge - President

Director of Nursing - Mrs. Constance J. May (Tour Guide)

Facts

Eleven wooded acres.

\$14.50 per diem.

Facility is licensed for 100 -- 96 at the Center -- "Lengthy waiting list".

Three groups of children served:

1. Profoundly retarded non-ambulatory.
2. Severely retarded ambulatory out to school.
3. Low moderately retarded -

Self help skills

Grooming

Family living

Community awareness

64 children bussed to school under Butler County Intermediate Unit.

Child care aides have been hired as teacher aides.

(All 96 children have been evaluated by Intermediate Unit.)

Of the remaining 32 children

20 - school age - could and should have an educational program.
Mr. Mixer, Director of Special Education, had hired a teacher for them who chose not to come.

12 below school age

Program

Held trips on Saturday

Volunteer Program

Sr. Fidells

Council for Exceptional Children at Slippery Rock - 65 volunteers come every night but Friday and Saturday).

Staff

R.N. on duty around the clock.

Director of Nursing

Coordinator of Developmental Activities

P.T. - once a week - who prescribes for P.T. (40 hour a week employee) aid and 20 children.

Licensed Pharmacist - 2 or 3 evenings a week.

Dr. McKelvey - Pediatrician M/Th Hospitals -

Minor problems - Passavant

Major - Children's

76 employees (including maintenance)

Child Care Staff

(6:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. - 11 full staff
Daily (9:00 A.M. - 3:15 P.M. - 6 (constraint care patients)
(3:15 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. - 11

Weekend schedule - unknown

Problems

1. 10 children over 12 years of age (up to 15 years) Inappropriately placed.

Pressure on BSU which has been more responsive in the past 6 months.

Allegheny County MH/MR owes \$15,000. Pays when is ready to pay.

Butler Rehab. is hopeful that these residents can go to the new adolescent unit at Allegheny Valley School.

22 residents have been discharged in the past three years -- some to other institutions; e.g., White Deer; others home and to foster homes.

2. No central air conditioning or central heating.

Room unit heating is very uneven).

Problems (Continued)

3. Although profit making -- claim only a \$500 profit in 1971

Corporation of businessmen "United Cause" - went into human services business in 1964. Butler Rehab. opened in June, 1967. There has been no return on the investment to date.

Where are the businessmen getting the new capital to invest in a second home in Hershey, Pa. - Children's Care Center???

4. Mrs. May claims money is the big problem. Cannot provide the desired human services (as stimulation and play with severely retarded non-ambulatory children) on \$14.50 daily.

Mrs. May's dream of an outdoor gross motor playground with shapes, colors and caboose was not funded.

5. Few personal belongings found - particularly evident in Center Hall Rooms where children attend outside school.

(Exception - one room of older boys.... In mat room - inappropriate very small crib for one boy).

6. Nettings over cribs would not be necessary if staff were available to monitor children's climbing out of beds.

7. Bathroom in South Wing -

Inadequate number of handwashing sinks.

Toilet paper and soap completely out of child's reach.

8. Pharmacy - certainly cheaper and more convenient. But is it safer?

Three people with keys:

Mrs. May
Mrs. Wilson - Director of Nursing
Pharmacist

Keys are given on occasion to an R.N. "when necessary"

Some members of the Inspection Team felt there was a urine odor - others did not.

10. Misleading signs - as "Montessori" when no such equipment existed.

11. Mrs. May stated, "The children are seen as individuals". This would appear not be true in the understaffed situation with the "constant care" patients -

Little play - stimulation

These children were not as responsive as others who function on this same level - whom we have observed elsewhere.

Bedroom Areas

North Wing - Constant care - one child care worker in each room of six children.

1 activities area

Center Hall Rooms

8 rooms with 4-5 residents - 3 staff - Most difficult group, hyper-active, ambulatory, severely retarded.- Many are not toilet-trained.

1 large and 1 small activity room

Hall (uncarpeted) used also.

General

Personalized clothing - excellent

Visitation officially 1:30-4:00.

Parents are welcomed, however, any time.

Child care staff -

On job training

One week of paid orientation.

2 women work 40 hours a week just having school outfits cleaned and ready.

Large Dining

Large Dining Room - long tables

Small Dining Room - small tables

Kitchen

Basement

Activity Room for Center Hall children called Home Living.

Activity Room where volunteers can work one to one.

School Room (Under Butler County Intermediate Unit)

Teacher (Mrs. Bowser) and aide with 10 children - could use an additional aide.

Laundry

Pharmacy

Maintenance Room - (Ex-retardate employed here.)