



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
POLK STATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL
POLK, PENNSYLVANIA
16342

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL
LETTERS REGARDING PATIENTS
TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

JAMES H. MCCLELLAND, JR., M.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

October 30, 1973

Mr. G. Richard Sell
Compliance Officer
Allegheny County Chapter
Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, Inc.
917-1001 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233

Dear Mr. Sell:

This is in reply to your letter of October 17, 1973 in reference to Civil Action No. 71-42.

1. Q. Are all children between the ages of 4.7 and 21 years provided with educational programs?
 - A. Yes, all 442 school-age children in residence are provided an educational program. Three have not returned from summer vacations at home.
2. Q. How many children are transported away from your facility for educational purposes? How many children are transported from one section of the facility to another for their educational programs? How many children receive their educational programs within the confines of their own living units?
 - A. a. One person is transported away from our facility for educational purposes to Franklin Area Junior-Senior High School.
 - b. 359 are provided educational programs away from their living units. 82 are provided educational programs within the confines of their own living units.
3. Q. Describe the process through which a program is developed for a child.
 - A. 1. Evaluation and initial assessment.
 2. Prescription writing based on individual needs consisting of behavioral objectives and learning activities.
 3. Re-evaluation.

4. Q. Have due process notices gone out to all parents?
 - A. No. Due Process Notices are in process.
5. Q. Have the parents been properly informed regarding program descriptions, individual implications for their child, hours in programming, the teacher, the location of the educational setting, etc.?
 - A. Whether or not they have been properly informed remains a question. However, we have through a letter from Mr. Colombatto informed each parent of the children involved in the educational program of I.U. #6. The NEWS-LETTER has also carried an article in regard to the education program. The parents have all been given school calendars and have also been invited to attend an Open-House on October 25 and 26 as part of American Education Week. We have also furnished detailed educational reports to any parent who has made a request.
6. Q. Have the parents been informed of their rights and have alternatives been presented?
 - A. It is questionable as to whether they have been informed of their rights and alternatives. However, this should be covered through the Due Process letter once it is completed.
7. Q. How many children are in an educational program for 3 to 5 hours per day? For 1 to 3 hours? For less than 1 hour?
 - A. We have 366 who are receiving 3-5 hours, and we have 76 who are receiving 1-3 hours. None are receiving less than one hour.
8. Q. Do you feel that parents are able to make an informed judgment as to the appropriateness of the educational placement of their child?
 - A. As to parents making informed judgment as to the appropriateness of the placement of their children, this ability would vary with every parent. Some parents would be able to assess the program their child is in and make an intelligent decision as to its appropriateness. For others, it would depend upon their knowledge of educational procedures.
9. Q. What type of in-service training program has been provided for your staff?

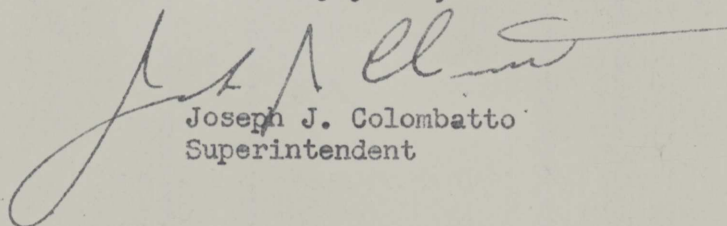
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- A. For new staff one week of intensified inservice training was provided covering a variety of subjects relating to educational procedures including feeding, positioning and handling, physical therapy, music therapy, behavior modification techniques, prescription writing, human development, speech therapy, etc.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. J. Colombatto', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph J. Colombatto
Superintendent

JJC/cms