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STATE COLONY
WOODBINE, NEW JERSEY

1964-1965

Account Number 764-100

GENERAL STATEMENT

Budget Requests for the State Colony at Woodbine for the fiscal year July 1, 1964 through June 30, 1965 are presented herewith. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963 the average daily net population was 1230 and the average daily gross, 1237. Total enrollment was down slightly at the close of the year but with new admissions scheduled to fill temporarily vacant beds, it is anticipated that the average daily net population for F.Y. 1964-65 will be 1235, and an appropriation based on this figure is requested. The number of beds in all cottages, and the Hospital Annex, which represents capacity, is 1240 and in addition there are 10 beds in the General Hospital occupied by permanent hospital cases not assignable to any cottage, making a total bed capacity of 1250.

Since the number of deaths remained relatively low (18) and the number of discharges and extended visits are few among the seriously retarded, the normal admission rate will not be accelerated. However, the opening of Woodbridge State School will, we anticipate, result in a number of our residents being transferred there and an equal number of new admissions to replace them.

During the fiscal year just passed, the administration has achieved significant improvements and advancements in varied programs which have ultimately benefited each mentally retarded individual whose welfare, training and care is the mission of the institution. Program improvements are stimulated and made possible in great measure by the monies appropriated based on a sound and judicious budget. In addition, the administration conceives it a grave responsibility to carry forward new programs and to meet the needs of the residents with imagination and ingenuity utilizing to best advantage present personnel and existing facilities. A very brief summary of the major accomplishments and improvements follows:

FIRE PREVENTION

A three-pronged attack was aggressively made to strengthen a weak and ineffective fire prevention program: (1) Re-organization and re-activation of a dormant Volunteer Fire Company, (2) Fire Prevention In-Service Training for all employees, and (3) Inauguration of an Evacuation Plan for the Cottages and Hospitals and development of a new Fire Code alarm system.

Starting on October 3rd new members were recruited for the Fire Company and through the remainder of the fiscal year a concentrated training program was conducted. An average of 11 members attended 18 sessions consisting of 45 hours of instruction and training in the use of the fire engine, and its accessories, hydrant operation and evacuation procedures. New helmets, boots and firemen's coats were purchased to outfit the Company. 1,000 feet of old, weak 2½" fire hose which burst at very low pressure during a training session was replaced by new hose. New nozzles, suction hose and other similar equipment was purchased to properly outfit the fire engine which was reconditioned by the Maintenance Department. A concentrated in-service training program on fire prevention and evacuation was conducted for all employees. A total of eight sessions were held at various times around the clock so that employees on all shifts were included. For the first time at Woodbine, scheduled evacuation drills for the cottages were held. A new evacuation plan was developed and instituted and a new fire code alarm system inaugurated. New red plastic strips were attached to all telephones stating the fire emergency telephone number.

MEDICAL AND NURSING

Amebiasis has been, for many, many years a chronic problem among the resident and employee population. The additional position

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of Laboratory Technician greatly strengthened the stool survey program for the identification for treatment of infected persons. At the request of the administration, consultations were had on this problem with Dr. James Butler, Medical Consultant of the Department, Dr. Miles F. Drake, Consultant of the Division, Dr. Dougherty, Chief, Division of Preventable Disease, State Health Department and Dr. Cohen, of the Communicable Disease Center of the U.S. Public Health Service. Two conditions considered as having an effect on spreading this infection received attention: (a) Environmental health programs in the cottages were strengthened, and (b) A deliberate attack was made on the long-standing heavy infestation of insects in the cottages, and by the end of the year the sanitarian reported outstanding success in the insect control program.

The T. B. Annex was constructed several years ago for the care and treatment of infectious tubercular patients of this institution as well as other institutions for the retarded. This 60 bed unit had a low census due to improvements in the treatment of such cases. At the request of the administration, and through the cooperation and efforts of Dr. Maurice G. Kott and Dr. James Butler, arrangements were made to send all infectious tubercular patients to a more appropriate facility. This was accomplished the previous fiscal year but with the additional positions budgeted in this fiscal year the census and function of this unit were radically changed. The census was brought up to capacity of 60 and the unit, under the medical and nursing staff, treats and cares for severe diabetics, cardiac cases, senile, chronically ill, debilitated residents who require greater than cottage care and less than hospital care.

A practice was begun of having the clinic nurses physically inspect all residents at frequent intervals. This has resulted in the early detection of obscure pathology which could be overlooked by non-professional cottage personnel. The addition of the full-time X-Ray Technician position provided an ancillary service to our physicians which had a positive effect upon the medical program. The physicians were able to order an unrestricted number of x-rays for diagnostic as well as treatment purposes.

Significant improvements in the dental program were made with the addition of a position to assist the Dentist at the chair and in routine cottage surveys. Upon the retirement of our staff dentist at mid-year and the appointment of a new Senior Staff Dentist, considerable progress was made in correcting deficits in our dental and oral hygiene programs by the close of the year.

EDUCATION

A shift in the direction and character of the education program was accomplished. Greater emphasis was placed on programs for the more capable residents with establishment of evening continuation and community living classes, hobby classes, craft shop and library. For the more handicapped residents, a new experimental class was introduced for boys with a very short attention span. Classes of 5 minutes duration were gradually expanded to 40 minutes and success was attained in training and orienting a limited number of boys for inclusion in the school program.

Publication of a weekly Events Calendar was begun on August 27th. Education and recreation activities are listed therein facilitating communication throughout the institution and this has improved programming.

COTTAGE LIFE

Strengthening of self-help training programs in feeding, toileting and dressing was carried on by the cottage life personnel. For example, a special table was set up in C-14 for non-feeders and

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1964-1965

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the employees carried on an intensive self-feeding program with gratifying results which dramatically demonstrated the merit of additional cottage employees to bolster the training programs.

The new service roads to the older cottages on the inner circle were placed in operation by the end of May. Improvements resulted in food, laundry and supplies deliveries and the pick up of trash and garbage.

Two additional positions granted in this budget enabled us to open the central switchboard 24 hours a day effective 9-16-63 and also provided improved central cottage life supervision during the night hours. A system was inaugurated of hourly Cottage reporting during this period and these changes greatly strengthened our night security and safety.

Implementation of the new cottage life titles and reclassification of 11 Attendant to Charge Attendant positions were positive steps taken in improving the cottage life staffing pattern which ultimately resulted in better cottage operations.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Junking of the explosive, obsolete gas ranges and replacement by modern, stainless steel electric ranges, procurement of a new food delivery truck, Hobart mixer and stainless steel steamer and the granting of new Senior Food Service positions added materially to the efficiency of the food service operation. Cottage feeding programs for regular meals and between meal snacks were greatly improved by the acquisition of refrigerated milk dispensers and commercial type electric toasters. Generally, a markedly improved diet was accomplished through these factors and by a modest food per capita increase from 50.7¢ to 52.5¢ daily.

The Leesburg Inmate detail was increased to provide for the operation of our laundry function and the replacement of our own residents for release to vocational assignments in more direct care aspects of our program. This change provided work for an average of 22 Leesburg inmates without reducing the capacity and efficiency of the laundry operation.

PSYCHOLOGY

Great strides were made to increase the frequency of psychological evaluations. By the close of the year, all residents except those in 3 cottages had been tested as often as recommended by the Division of Mental Retardation and full classifications in accordance with AAMD recommendations had been completed for residents of 3 cottages.

New tests and techniques were introduced to provide improved and broaden individual psychological examinations. Clinical research programs were conducted in personality self-ratings in the mental retardate, personality, intelligence and the selection of Institutional Aides, and Task Difficulty and Response time in the retardate. The last two investigations were reported in the Welfare Reporter and The Training School Bulletin respectively.

SUMMARY

Although there have been significant improvements made during the past fiscal year, largely because of additional funds provided for personnel and facilities, a great many things remain to be done. The administration has a deep concern in the following major areas: (1) necessity to bolster the cottage life and medical department staffing to provide improved resident care, training and treatment and need for supportive personnel for ancillary services, and (2) need to correct deficiencies existing in our older cottages by providing for elimination of inadequate, outmoded cottage kitchens, heating and ventilating units and lighting and the procurement of modern, efficient replacements of such facilities and to make required extraordinary repairs for the preservation of the plant.