

permission from the father, who is the legal guardian, to return Marjorie to her mother's custody. The danger of placing Marjorie with her mother was discussed in that she is infatuated with her stepfather, who is much younger than her mother. After considering the case carefully, the board voted that Marjorie should be given trial placement with her mother.

Mr. Dale explained that Willard Moody was causing much trouble at Brandon State School and that his case would be brought before the Board of Mental Health at their next meeting.

Mr. Gay next discussed with Mr. Foster the recommendations brought out in the last board meeting and enumerated in a letter to Mr. Foster on March 12. He instructed the secretary to provide Mr. Foster with a copy of this portion of the minutes of the meeting.

(1) "That Weeks School should adopt the policy of placing girls exclusively within the State." Mr. Foster stated that they were working on this and hoped to find more homes within the state.

(2) "That the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent should visit all cottages daily, endeavoring to improve coordination of all units." Mr. Foster said that quite a bit of such visiting was done but that he would not say it was every day. Mr. Gay requested Mr. Foster to keep a record of such daily visits which might be made available to the board upon request and advised Mr. Foster to make every effort to see that this visiting was done daily.

(3) "That definite rules concerning the procedure to be followed in excusing a boy or girl from the classroom or cottage be established and explained to all concerned." Mr. Foster said he had drawn up a sheet on this and was going to put it out as soon as he had discussed it with a few staff members.

(4) "That regularly scheduled staff meetings be held at least monthly." Mr. Foster said that no staff meetings had yet been held. Mr. Gay asked if the staff would cooperate in this and Mr. Foster said he did not know but he thought most of them would. Mr. Gay stated that those staff members who did not cooperate should be let go and advised Mr. Foster to keep a close check on the attitude of the employees who did not seem to cooperate. Mr. Foster asked the board if it would be all right to have staff meetings in groups, such as having all cottage masters and matrons in one group, all detail men in another group, etc., since it was impossible to get everyone together for a staff meeting at any one time. The board agreed that this was the way to handle the situation and Mr. Gay advised Mr. Foster to have at least two group meetings a week. The board asked Mr. Foster to keep a record of what matters were brought up at each meeting so that the same general topics might be discussed before all groups in the series of meetings.

(5) "That the Superintendent immediately look into the matter of boys being required to stand while waiting for cottage masters to return from meals and if this policy is found to exist that it be abolished immediately." Mr. Foster stated that this had been investigated and that this practice no longer existed.

(6) "That boys in confinement for punishment be provided with a variety of reading material." Mr. Foster stated that this recommendation had been carried out.

(7) "That Mr. Foster put in writing his request to Mr. Buxton for an estimation of the cost of an electric locking device for the girls' dormitory." Mr. Foster

stated that this had been done.

-3-

(8) "That Mr. Foster submit to the board a plan for expanding the recreational program at the school." Mr. Foster said that he had some pencilled notes on this but wished to work on it further before submitting it. Mr. Gay said that the notes should be completed as soon as possible and submitted to Mr. Dale and that Mr. Foster should include the proviso in his report that these plans could not be put into effect until it was known just what personnel would be available after June.

(9) "That Mr. Foster make it a practice to confer with chaplains at least once a week, that chaplains be invited to attend regular staff meetings, and that a meeting be held with the chaplains immediately to pave the way toward better cooperation." Mr. Foster stated that he had conferred with the chaplains. Asked if he had discussed the case of the boy who was not excused from the cottage at the chaplain's request, Mr. Foster said that he had not. Mr. Gay advised that the entire procedure concerning excuses, etc., be taken up with the chaplains before it was brought up in regular staff meeting.

(10) "That Mr. Foster write a case history concerning Malcolm Tanner and submit it to Governor Gibson, explaining the infraction of rules in this case." Mr. Foster stated that this had been done.

(11) "That Bill Livingston be given placement consideration immediately." Mr. Foster stated that Mr. Osborne had a place to which he hoped to take Bill Livingston immediately.

(12) "That the girls on "A" class should be given placement opportunity immediately with the exception of those girls enrolled in school, who should be given placement opportunity at the end of the school year." Mr. Foster stated that they were working on this.

Mr. Dale informed the board that the Building Commission was quite concerned about a master release lock for the girls' dormitory and were attempting to get action on the order at once.

The possibility of cutting down on the large staff at Weeks School was mentioned. Mr. Foster said that he did not see any possibility of cutting down now. Professor Gifford suggested curtailment of farm activities and pointed out the necessity for adjusting the staff to the new basis of operation which involves placement at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Dale stated that the idea of sending the high school students to Vergennes High School and eliminating the necessity for operating a high school at the institution for so few students had been mentioned. Mr. Foster brought out the fact that there were probably not more than three boys now at Weeks School who would be transferred to the new institution in Rutland. Mr. Foster also stated that he would not let Mr. Hier go until he had a letter instruction him to do so from either the Governor or the Commissioner of Public Welfare, since he had no basis personally for such discharge and did not wish to assume the responsibility for this move.

Mr. Foster then left the meeting and Mr. Osborne, Placement Counsellor at Weeks School, discussed two cases with the board. The first was the case of Stanley Cormier of Middlebury, a former Brandon State School commitment who had escaped from the institution and had been sentenced to Weeks School for breaking and entering. The boy is 19 years old, has an I. Q. of 49, and is a serious sex problem. He has not adjusted well in foster home placement and in his

present placement has been unnecessarily cruel to the baby of the family, evincing temperamental displays of anger in which he might easily do serious harm. Mr. McDevitt suggested that the boy be returned to Weeks School. Mr. Osborne said the boy did not adjust well there unless kept isolated from the group. Professor Gifford suggested that since the boy was presumably dangerous, he might be transferred to the House of Correction at Windsor. The motion was made and passed that this boy be transferred to the House of Correction at Windsor.

Mr. Osborne's second case was that of Clifford Taft. This boy is 19 years old and has an I. Q. of 70. His mother is dead and his father has remarried and is living in Massachusetts. The boy's most serious problem seems to be enuresis which he presumably does not attempt to overcome. This has made foster home placement difficult. Mr. Osborne believed that the boy's father would accept him in Massachusetts if the boy were brought there but the father had refused to come after the boy. The board advised that Mr. Osborne deliver the boy to his father and that he be discharged.

The board was informed of the property in Rutland which is now under consideration for a new Women's Reformatory and offered for sale at \$40,000.00. Mr. Dale reported that Austin MacCormick had said he would come to Vermont in April if necessary to discuss the prison situation. Mr. Ward's administration was discussed favorably by the board. Mr. Dale mentioned the fact that Austin MacCormick had recommended Mr. Farley as a candidate for Warden but Mr. Dale was not sure Mr. Farley was seriously interested in the position since he had stated he felt Harry Ward was a most suitable candidate for the position and he did not wish to compete with him.

Mr. Dale informed the board of the meeting to take place in New York on March 29 for discussion of the Federal legislation which would provide the states with financial assistance for mental health clinics.

The board passed the following resolution concerning the assistance programs: "It is hereby adopted as a policy of the Department of Public Welfare that no grant of Aid to Dependent Children or of Blind Assistance shall exceed the maximum amount in which the federal government will participate. The maximum amount as of the date of this resolution is \$24.00 for the first child and <sup>1500</sup> ~~\$5.00~~ for each additional eligible child in the home for Aid to Dependent Children and \$45.00 for Blind Assistance, but this policy shall be construed as sufficiently flexible to conform with any changes in maximum grants which may be made by the federal government unless amended to the contrary by action of this board."

The meeting adjourned at 4:15, the date for the next meeting being left to the discretion of the chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

T. C. Dale, Secretary

A meeting of the State Board of Public Welfare was held in the Public Welfare offices at Montpelier on March 26, 1947, at 10 a.m. Present were: Olin D. Gay, Chairman; Professor A. R. Gifford; Mr. Charles F. McDevitt; Mrs. Pearl Keeler; and T. C. Dale, Secretary.

The first business to come before the meeting was a discussion of the need for psychiatric services at Brandon State School. A letter from Dr. Joseph Chassell of Bennington College and one from Dr. Samuel Hamilton of the United States Public Health Service were read and discussed. Mr. Dale stated that at the suggestion of Governor Gibson, he had written to Dr. Frank Kelly of Hartford, Conn., but had as yet received no reply. Professor Gifford emphasized that he felt divided authority at the school was most undesirable. Mr. McDevitt suggested that it might be necessary to leave the school under the administration of Mr. Barnard with psychiatric services being rendered by a psychiatrist stationed at the State Hospital in Waterbury. A short discussion of the status of welfare bills before the legislature followed.

Supt. Foster of the Weeks School then joined the meeting. He asked for board consideration of several cases, as follows:

Rosemary Vaudrien of St. Albans, who is 16 years old and has an I. Q. of 50 is wanted at home by her father, who has seven other children in the home, all younger than Rosemary. She has not adjusted very well at the school, being addicted to swearing, temper tantrums, etc. The motion was made and passed by the board after discussion that this girl should be left at Weeks School until some arrangement could be made for her to enter Brandon State School.

Mabel Jerome, who will be 19 years old in October, was committed January, 1944, and has an I. Q. of 47. She was at St. Joseph's Orphanage eight years and was a committed child under the jurisdiction of the Welfare Department. Her family background is very poor and no member of her family visits her or shows any interest in her. The board moved that this girl should be left at Weeks School pending arrangements for her commitment to Brandon State School.

Delia Bedard of N. Stratford, who will be 19 in November, has an I. Q. of 50. She was committed to the school September 5, 1945. Her home conditions are very bad and she has no desire to return to them. The board moved that this girl should be kept at Weeks School pending commitment to Brandon State School.

Laurence Bennet of St. Johnsbury, who is 12 years old and has an I. Q. of 70, has caused disturbances at the school because of his epileptic seizures. Mr. Foster stressed that Weeks School is not the place for either feeble minded or epileptic cases. The board voted that this boy should be committed to Brandon State School as soon as possible.

Neil Baker, who has an I. Q. of 82 and is 16 years old, is subject to serious epileptic seizures. He was sentenced to Weeks School for driving a car without a license, stealing a flashlight, etc. The board voted that this boy should be committed to Brandon State School as soon as possible.

Mr. Dale explained to the board that Marjorie Meehan's mother has requested that Marjorie, who is now in the State Hospital, be placed with her. Mr. Foster explained the futility of transferring Marjorie back to Weeks School where she has been a constant source of trouble and has failed to adjust. Mr. Dale stated that Lee Emerson was attorney for the mother and was trying to get