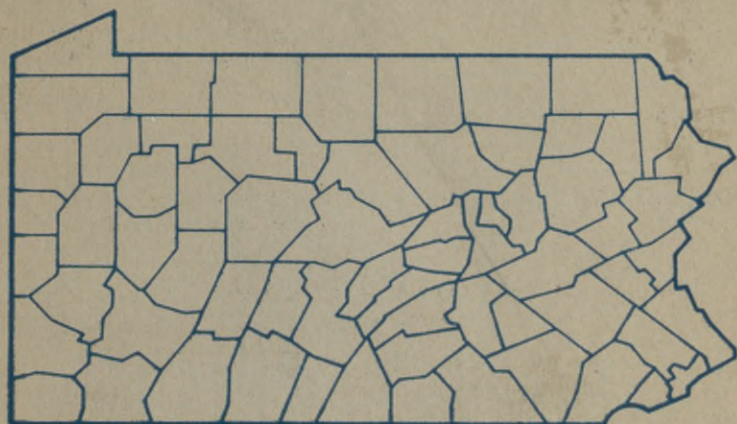


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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**POST-WAR PLANNING
COMMISSION**



**PENAL, MENTAL AND MEDICAL-SURGICAL
INSTITUTIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

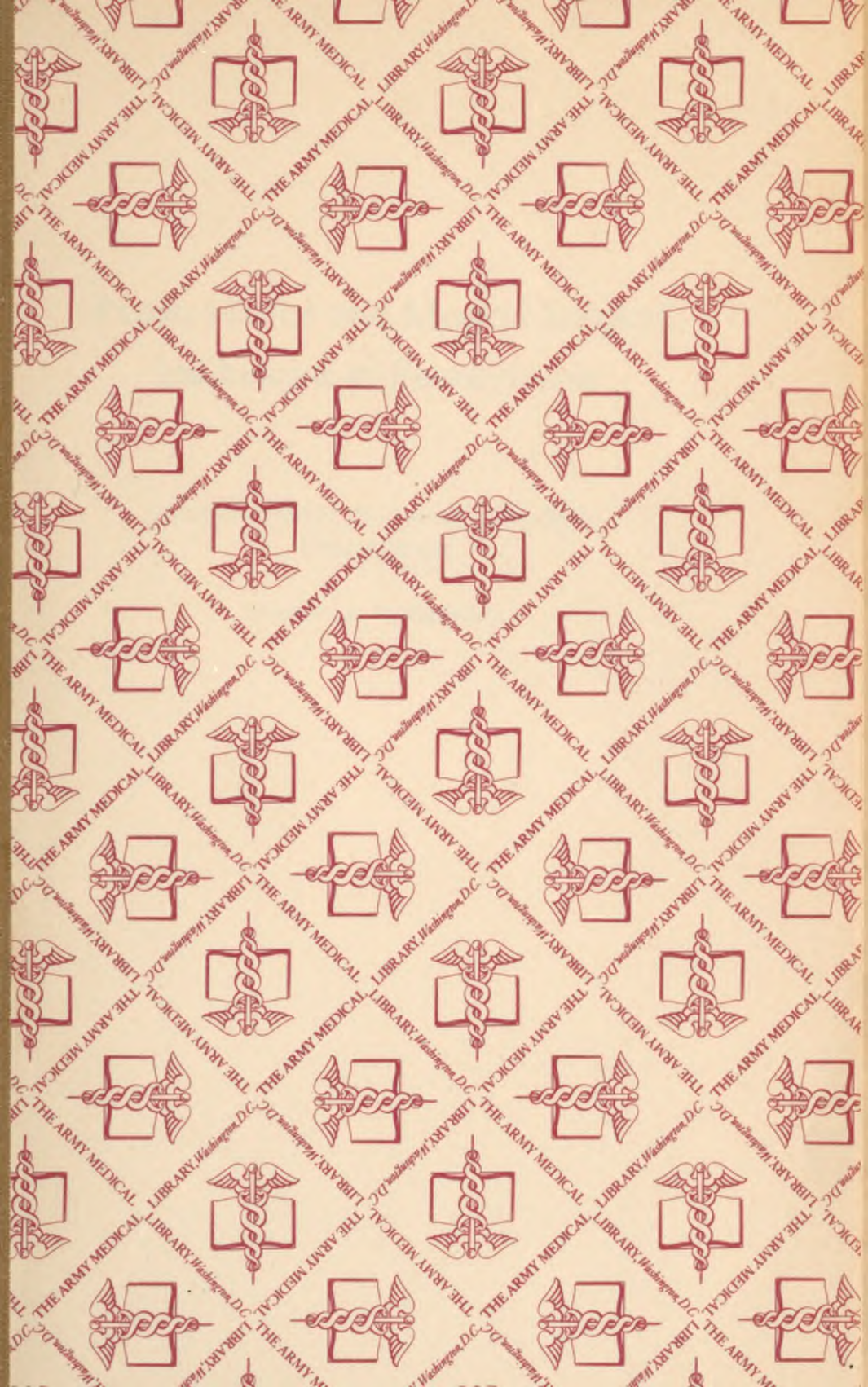
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**Penal, Mental and Medical-Surgical
Institutions in Pennsylvania**

**PENNSYLVANIA, POST-WAR PLANNING
"1" COMMISSION**

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA POST-WAR PLANNING COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

April 10, 1945.

THE HONORABLE EDWARD MARTIN,
Governor of Pennsylvania,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

DEAR GOVERNOR MARTIN:

The Post-War Planning Commission presents the following report on Penal, Mental and Medical-Surgical Institutions in Pennsylvania. The report reviews the findings of the Stanley P. Ashe Committee on Pennsylvania Penal Institutions, of the Dr. Howard K. Petry Committee on Pennsylvania Mental Hospitals, of the Department of Welfare on Pennsylvania Medical-Surgical Hospitals, and estimates of cost of recommended construction as compiled by the Department of Welfare. The conclusions and recommendations are those of the Post-War Planning Commission.

The report was developed by and under the direction of Mr. H. Melvin Vivian, a member of the Commission, with the assistance of Mr. Edward L. Lancaster, Director of Research for the Commission.

The Commission expresses its appreciation of the very excellent and thorough surveys of the Ashe and Petry Committees, and extends its sincere thanks to all who have contributed directly or indirectly to the preparation of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. PRENTIS, JR.,
Chairman.

Section I

PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In Miss O'Hara's report to the Post-War Planning Commission on desired construction for Penal Institutions in the State, there is mention of a report by Mr. Stanley P. Ashe, and his Governor's Committee.

This Committee was appointed by the Governor in April, 1944, and consisted of Henry C. Hill, William S. Livengood, Jr., Herbert Smith, Robert E. Woodside, and Stanley P. Ashe, Chairman. Governor Martin wanted a study made of the correctional system and recommendations made that would place Pennsylvania in the forefront in the treatment of crime and delinquency. It seems that this State led all others, for a time, in the handling of criminals and delinquents, but in recent years has fallen behind.

The Committee held nine meetings, visited many of the Penal Institutions, and recommended the revamping of the entire system in the State.

The report suggests—

A. That the State Correctional System be organized on a State-wide basis. In earlier days when transportation and communication were slow, there was an Eastern Division and a Western Division. This system the Committee deems obsolete.

B. That there be classification of institutions. This will make them more efficient, as they can be classified as minimum, medium and maximum security institutions. Each institution would handle a different class of criminal.

C. That there be a single classification center. Upon being committed, an offender would be sent to a reception center where he would be carefully examined and then committed to the correctional institution best equipped to handle his or her problem.

D. That the classification center be located at White Hill. It would then be centrally located, thereby saving transportation costs. It would be on the grounds of an existing institution where the segregated cell blocks and services for a capacity of 500 inmates can be made available. It will, how-

ever, require a surrounding wall and additional auxiliary buildings to make an adequate classification center.

E. That the Eastern State Penitentiary at Philadelphia be abandoned. This is 100 years old, situated in the heart of the city, beyond rehabilitation and unfit for use.

F. That the Western State Penitentiary at Pittsburgh be retained only temporarily. This is located in a flood area, has been inundated several times, is in a smoky dirty area, and would cost about \$1,000,000 to repair.

G. That the normal prison capacity of the State be 7,000. In 1940 the prison population was 5,708, and room for 7,000 is required.

H. That Rockview and Graterford be retained. Both are in excellent condition and fit into the proposed program.

I. That the Pennsylvania Industrial School at Huntingdon be used as a medium security prison. This has been used as an institution for defective delinquents but is more structurally ideal for a medium security prison.

J. That one unit of the Pennsylvania Industrial School at White Hill be used as a minimum security prison. After using the 500-cell unit here for a classification center, a 900-cell unit remains and is well suited for a minimum security prison for adults. However, although the power plant could serve both branches of the institution, it would be necessary to provide a number of additional buildings to otherwise effectively segregate the minimum security inmates from the inmates passing through the classification center.

K. That a new medium security prison be erected. The Committee suggests this be erected in the Western part of the State to accommodate 1,000.

L. That a new maximum security prison be erected. This should be erected within the present wall at Graterford to accommodate 700 of those who have revealed their probable incorrigibility by continued participation in crime.

M. That the normal reformatory capacity be 2,400.

N. That two new reformatories be erected. The Committee has estimated that requirements call for adequate housing for 500 minimum security cases, 1,440 medium security cases, and 250 of the maximum security type.

O. That a new institution for defective offenders be erected. This would be of 600 capacity and of farm type where simple trades would be learned.

P. That necessary additions be made at Muncy. (See construction required.)

Q. That the administration of correctional system be vested in the Commissioner of Correction, a division of the Department of Welfare. One person would then be responsible for administering correctional affairs.

R. That the co-educational policy be discontinued at Morganza. The Committee has excellent reasons for the segregation of boys and girls.

S. That a new institution be erected for delinquent girls. This should be built in the Western part of the State, since Sleighton Farm School can accommodate the Eastern area.

T. That a new institution be erected for delinquent boys. This should be built in the Eastern part of the State since Judges now find themselves in position to be unable to commit a serious delinquent to an institution as there is no State-owned training school.

U. That the supervision of training schools remain in the Department of Welfare.

Analysis of Population Potentials Taken from Governor's Committee Recommendations

| <i>Name of Institution</i> | <i>Maximum Security</i> | <i>Medium Security</i> | <i>Minimum Security</i> | <i>Defective Offenders</i> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ADULT MALES <i>White Hill</i> Used as a reformatory industrial school. Capacity, 1,414. Comprised of two units, 914 and 500. Recommended: Smaller unit be walled and used as maximum security prison | 500 | | | |
| Larger unit be converted into an adult minimum security prison | | | 900 | |

Analysis of Population Potentials Taken from Governor's Committee Recommendations—Continued

| Name of Institution | Maximum Security | Medium Security | Minimum Security | Defective Offenders |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Eastern State Penitentiary</i> Capacity, 944 Recommended: That it be abandoned. | | | | |
| <i>Graterford</i> Capacity, 2,000 Recommended: That it be retained as a medium security prison | | 2,000 | | |
| That a subdivision of 20 acres be selected as a site for new max- imum security prison to take the place of Eastern State Peniten- tiary | 700 | | | |
| <i>Western State Peniten- tiary</i> Capacity, 1,140 Recommended: That it be utilized for present purposes dur- ing transitional period only; ultimately abandoned. | | | | |
| <i>New Medium Security Prison</i> Proposed to take place of Western State Pen- itentiary | | 1,000 | | |
| <i>Rockview</i> Capacity, 1,012 Recommended: That it be retained as a minimum security prison | | | 1,000 | |
| <i>Huntingdon</i> Used as a reformatory industrial school. Capacity, 1,212 Recommended: That it be used as a med- ium security prison . . | | 1,212 | | |
| Total Adult Males | 700 | 4,212 | 1,900 | |
| <i>Defective Offenders</i> Male Adult and Juvenile New Institution for Defective Males | | | Adult . . Juvenile . . | 350 250 |
| Total Defective Offenders | | | | 600 |
| <i>Reformatories</i> Males New Minimum-Med- ium Reformatory | | 600 | 500 | |
| New Medium-Maxi- mum Reformatory | 240 | 760 | | (250) |
| Total Reformatory Males | 240 | 1,360 | 500 | (250) |

SUMMARY

| | |
|---|--------|
| Classification Center | 500 |
| Adult Males | 6,812 |
| Defective Offenders, Adult and Juvenile | 600 |
| Reformatory Males | 2,100 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 10,012 |
| | <hr/> |

The above totals are sufficient to provide for a 20-25% increase in adult male capacity and a 30% increase in male reformatory capacity. The Governor's Committee report indicated that these increases would accommodate the expected normal post-war intake.

Construction Required to Meet Recommendations of Governor's Committee

1. Erect a wall around White Hill and construct additional auxiliary buildings.
2. Erect medium security prison in the Western part of State to house 1,000.
3. Erect a new maximum security prison within the present wall at Graterford, capacity 700.
4. Erect two separate reformatories, each having a total capacity of 1,100, or 2,200 in all. No wall, but perhaps on the same reservation. Each to have minimum security capacity of 500 and medium security of 600.
5. Erect a new institution for defective offenders to house 600—farm type for adults and juveniles.
6. Muncy
 - (a) Buy additional farm land.
 - (b) Erect two cottages of 24 capacity each, one cottage of 36 capacity, for barn, poultry, and piggery groups.
 - (c) Build new hospital with small tuberculosis unit.
 - (d) Erect new quarters for staff.
 - (e) Erect new house for superintendent.
 - (f) Erect new industrial building to house the prison labor department, 4 sewing rooms, 1 occupational therapy room, and several store rooms.
 - (g) Erect new chapel.

- (h) Erect dairy barn, horse barn, chicken houses, hog houses, machine sheds, root cellar.
- (i) New boiler house and conduit tunnels.

7. Rockview

Erect

- (a) A permanent dining hall and kitchen.
- (b) Additional cold storage capacity.
- (c) Increased water supply.
- (d) A permanent administration building.
- (e) A chapel.
- (f) An educational building.
- (g) Enlargement of present slaughter house.
- (h) Flour and food mill.
- (i) A hospital.
- (j) Additions to boiler house.
- (k) Additional utility buildings.
- (l) Water lines.
- (m) Emergency water and filter plant.

8. Erect new institution for delinquent girls—cottage type. No capacity shown in report.

9. Erect a new training school for delinquent boys—cottage type. No capacity shown in report.

10. Graterford

Erect—

- (a) A chapel.
- (b) Dairy and farm buildings.
- (c) Permanent residences for administrative personnel, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Resident Physician and Farm Manager.

11. Razing of Eastern State Penitentiary.

12. Limitation of expenditures at Western State Penitentiary to those necessary for immediate needs and repairs only.

13. Erect additional buildings for the minimum security portion of White Hill to make it, as far as necessary, a complete

10 PENAL, MENTAL AND MEDICAL-SURGICAL INSTITUTIONS

and separate unit although located on the same property as the classification center.

14. Huntingdon

A considerable sum of money will need to be spent for rehabilitation and modernizing the institution for its efficient continuance as a State institution.

Miss O'Hara stated that she was in general accord with the recommendations of the Governor's Committee but made some reservations concerning specific suggestions of the Committee, on which she believes definite and final decisions must depend upon contingencies arising during the developments of the over-all plan. Final decisions on many of the suggestions can and must await further clarifications of administration policy and the study and intelligent tentative programming of the development of the individual institutions and projects by the Department of Welfare, carefully fitted to State-wide consideration and the impact of the war in close cooperation with the Governor's Committee. Legislative decisions may also necessitate some modifications of the Committee's and Department of Welfare's recommendations.

The Committee's letter of submittal to the Governor and Secretary of Welfare admits that they have not had estimates made of the cost of their recommended construction but state that it should come well within the sum of \$18,000,000.

Contrasted sharply with this figure is the estimate made by the Department of Welfare.

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE PLAN FOR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

OVER-ALL BASIS

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| New Institutions or Additions to present Institutions | |
| 6,220 cells or beds | \$20,016,000 |
| Additional land for New and Old Institutions | 2,000,000 |
| Sewage Disposal Plants | 500,000 |
| New Walls, etc. | 700,000 |
| New Educational Therapy and Care Buildings | 5,784,000 |
| Rehabilitation of Huntingdon | 1,000,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | <u>*\$30,000,000</u> |

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE PLAN FOR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

TIMED BASIS

Short-Term

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Replacement of Old Eastern and Western, 2,098 cells | \$6,751,364 |
| New Institution for Defectives—600 beds | 2,266,800 |
| Expansion of Muncy—180 beds | 681,040 |
| Juvenile—543 beds | 2,051,454 |
| Partial Rehabilitation of Present Institutions, including changeovers | 3,249,342 |

\$15,000,000

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Long-Term</i> | 15,000,000 |
|----------------------------|------------|

*\$30,000,000

* Not including cost of Department of Welfare study and programming which is presented under Section IV.

Section II

MENTAL INSTITUTIONS

On April 5, 1944, the Governor announced the creation of a Board "to make a study of the mental and criminally insane hospitals of Pennsylvania."

The Committee consisted of Doctors Howard K. Petry, Charles A. Zeller, Grosvenor B. Pearson, William C. Sandy and Major General Charles R. Reynolds.

The scope of the study was limited by the Committee to the "problem of the physical adequacy of existing institutions for the mentally ill, mentally defective and epileptic; and the desirability of their retention as part of the state welfare institutional system."

An intensely interesting and informational report of 187 pages was submitted by the Committee but no reference whatsoever was made concerning the cost of the recommended extensions, improvements and changes. The report dealt mainly with a review of the present situation in Pennsylvania Institutions for the mentally ill, feeble-minded and epileptic, a summary of basic standards set up by the Committee for the measurement of mental hospitals, and a presentation of the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee presented two basic criticisms of the State's present mental hospitals: (1) Over-crowding as a result of physical inadequacy and (2) Improper and inequitable distribution of population served by the various institutions. The two are interdependent and a solution of the first implies a correlative solution of the second.

Remedial problems such as special institutions, children's units, teaching and training programs, improvement in medical and health service, and educational programs for personnel training were discussed. However, since these areas are superstructures built only on a firm foundation of physical adequacy and since the Committee concluded that our mental institutions were far from adequate, physically, no attempt was made to appraise the institutions from these more comprehensive points of view.

A brief of the Committee's recommendation to alleviate inequitable districting and overcrowding follows.

(1) Districting of Population Served

At the present time the range of populations served by our mental hospitals, other than those statewide, varies from an area of 135 square miles with a 1940 population of 84,000 to an area of 10,208 square miles with a 1940 population of 1,931,000.

It is contemplated by the Committee that a satisfactory arrangement can be made in districting if the suggestions of the Committee on expansion and new construction are approved and put into effect. Statistics concerning the re-districting are omitted from this report.

(2) Overcrowding

General experience shows a requirement of between 400 and 500 beds per 100,000 population in institutions for the mentally ill. At present, Pennsylvania has 340 beds for this purpose per 100,000 population.

National experience shows a need of approximately 100 beds per 100,000 population in institutions for the mentally deficient. At present, Pennsylvania has 63 beds for this purpose per 100,000 population.

National experience shows a need of approximately 20 beds per 100,000 population in institutions for epileptics. At present, Pennsylvania has 8 beds for this purpose per 100,000 population.

The following figures give the picture, in aggregate, at 17 of our mental hospitals (including Western State Psychiatric) as of June 7, 1944.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Total resident population | 34,254 |
| Comfortable Capacity | 28,841 |
| | |
| Overcrowding | 5,413 |
| | |
| Percentage of overcrowding | 19% |

The Committee's conclusions regarding need for expansion are summed up in the following paragraphs:

"For our mental hospitals at the present moment, we require 5,413 additional beds to meet the present load, plus 729

beds which would be abandoned at Embreeville and Ransom hospitals. In addition to this, there are approximately 4,000 beds in structures which do not meet safety and hygienic standards. Further, it must be noted that the annual increment of new patients in Pennsylvania mental hospitals has totalled 700 per annum over the last ten year period.

"In institutions for the feeble-minded, we have at the present time an overcrowding of 418; a waiting list of 3,067; and an unmeasured need which is not reflected in these figures because a number of individuals who should be admitted to these schools and whose families desire their admission, have not been listed because of the apparent hopelessness of admission."

The report suggests specifically—

1. Immediate acquisition by the Commonwealth of the county properties, including buildings, at the following State mental hospitals:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mayview | Hollidaysburg |
| Woodville | Clarks Summit |
| Somerset | Retreat |

2. Expansion and new construction at the following mental hospitals:

| | <i>Reported Capacity</i> | <i>Present Status Population</i> | <i>Present Over- crowding</i> | <i>Capacity Recom- mended By 1954</i> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Expansion</i> | | | | |
| Torrance (a) | 1,670 | 2,472 | 802 | 3,200 |
| Somerset | 427 | 465 | 38 | 1,500 |
| Harrisburg | 2,019 | 2,425 | 406 | 3,000 |
| Hollidaysburg | 255 | 343 | 88 | 1,500 |
| Warren | 2,219 | 2,521 | 302 | 3,000 |
| Danville | 2,563 | 2,388 | -175 | 3,000 |
| Retreat (b) | 1,175 | 1,120 | -55 | none |
| Clarks Summit | 1,134 | 1,039 | -95 | 2,400 |
| Allentown | 1,664 | 1,955 | 291 | 2,800 |
| Wernersville | 1,597 | 1,859 | 262 | 2,400 |
| Embreeville (c) | 343 | 327 | -16 | none |
| Norristown | 3,853 | 4,381 | 528 | 3,000 |
| Philadelphia (d) | 4,523 | 6,048 | 1,525 | 10,000 |
| Mayview | 2,232 | 3,005 | 773 | 3,500 |
| Woodville | 1,928 | 2,509 | 581 | 3,500 |
| Ransom (e) | (?) | (338) | | none |
| Farview (f) | 853 | 1,059 | 206 | 1,500 |
| W. State Psych. | 125 | 109 | -16 | 250 |
| <i>New Construction</i> | | | | |
| New Mental Institution | .. | .. | .. | 2,200 |
| | 28,580 | 34,025 | 5,445 | 46,750 |

3. Expansion at the following feeble-minded institutions:

| | <i>Reported Present Status</i> | | <i>Present Over-crowding</i> | <i>Capacity Recommended By 1954</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <i>Capacity</i> | <i>Population</i> | | |
| Laurelton (h) | 815 | 909 | 94 | 2,000 |
| Pennhurst (i) | 1,812 | 2,259 | 447 | 4,000 |
| Polk (i) | 3,320 | 3,192 | -128 | 4,000 |
| | 5,947 | 6,360 | 413 | 10,000 |

4. Expansion at our single epileptic institution.

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Selinsgrove | 855 | 881 | 26 | 2,500 |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----|-------|

a. Development at Torrance (serving western part of state) of a children's unit similar to that now established at Allentown State Hospital.

b. Retreat to be continued at its present size, pending adequate development of Clarks Summit and Danville State Hospitals. Undesirable site does not justify retention of institution in a long range program. Ultimate abandonment and transfer of patients to above institutions. (The Post-War Planning Commission does not agree with this conclusion. It feels that consideration should be given to the building of a bridge for ingress and egress and to further rehabilitation of the institution.)

c. Early abandonment at Embreeville with transfer of patients to Wernersville State Hospital or Norristown State Hospital.

d. Comprehensive plan for rehabilitation and expansion of Philadelphia State Hospital endorsed and recommended for approval.

e. Early abandonment at Ransom with transfer of patients to Clarks Summit State Hospital.

f. Limitation of Farview to 1,500. Beyond that point consideration should be given to the development of another institution in the central part of the state to care for the convict insane.

g. There is need for the development of an additional hospital to meet the needs of the populous counties of Lawrence, Beaver, Washington and Greene.

h. Recommended that Laurelton State Village be converted to an institution for mental defectives of both sexes or a new institution in the central portion of state be developed for this group.

i. Immediate expansion at Polk and Pennhurst State Schools with early objective of making each a 4,000 bed school to eliminate the long standing waiting lists.

Miss O'Hara expressed her general agreement with the recommendations of the Petry report, but, as in the case of the report by the Governor's Committee on Penal Institutions, felt that she must make reservations in certain areas because of her inability, or anyone's, to foresee clearly every minute detail of such a comprehensive program.

Cost of Financing the Board's Recommendations

The Governor's Board for the Study of Pennsylvania Mental Hospitals attempted no estimate of the cost of materializing their recommendations.

The Department of Welfare, however, has submitted the following estimate of approximate cost necessary to carry out the suggestions of the board.

SHORT TERM PROGRAM

Mental Institutions

| | |
|--|--------------|
| New Construction | \$32,500,000 |
| Sewage Disposal Projects | 1,456,400 |
| Plant rehabilitation; Power, heat, light, water, laundry, safety, dietary, therapy, hospital facilities, attendant and staff housing | 13,200,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$47,156,400 |

Feeble-Minded Institutions

| | |
|--|-------------|
| New Construction | \$4,617,000 |
| Sewage Disposal Projects | 288,000 |
| Plant rehabilitation; Power, heat light, water, laundry, safety, dietary, therapy, hospital facili- ties, etc. | 5,556,820 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 10,461,820 |

Epileptic Institutions

| | | |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| New Construction | \$864,000 | |
| Improvements to services—central kitchen and storehouses | 300,000 | |
| Plant rehabilitation | 460,800 | |
| | | <u>1,624,800</u> |
| TOTAL SHORT TERM PROGRAM | | \$59,243,020 |

LONG TERM PROGRAM

| | | |
|--|------------|-----------------------|
| Plans in Mental, Feeble-Minded and Epileptic Institutions | 94,304,784 | |
| | | <u>*\$153,547,804</u> |

* Not including cost of Department of Welfare study and programming which is included in Section IV.

Section III

MEDICAL-SURGICAL HOSPITALS

In Miss O'Hara's report of November 13, 1944, there is a recommendation concerning the needs of Medical and Surgical Hospitals.

These were originally created to treat the industrial casualties of the coal industry in the State and now serve general hospital needs in their respective communities. In addition, they contribute under a program recently inaugurated to the nurse training program for mental hospitals and psychiatric patients. Miss O'Hara expresses a desire to expand this essential element in the Welfare system.

The hospitals are located at Oakland, Blossburg, Coaldale, Connellsville, Hazleton, Locust Mountain, Nanticoke, Philipsburg, Scranton and Shamokin. The aggregate rated capacity as of June 1, 1942, was 1,465 and the population as of November 10, 1944, was 1,157.

Miss O'Hara states her problem concerning the same as "largely to rehabilitate plants, to increase nurse training facilities and to bring auxiliary facilities up to patient load." Her financial recommendations are as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Sewage disposal | \$200,000 |
| Plant rehabilitation and to bring auxiliary facilities up to present patient rating | 2,676,400 |
| | \$2,876,400 |

Section IV

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

The working out of the pressing construction needs for the individual institutions will require consistent and detailed planning and programming. This we consider the function of the Architectural and Engineering staff of the Department of Welfare. Outside Architects and Engineers, not in daily touch with the institutional managements and their problems, cannot be expected to have the background required for such an assignment, whereas a competent technical staff under the direct and constant supervision and control of the Department, will have the advantage of the long experience, specialized thinking and study of the many problems peculiar to the Department of Welfare institutions.

Miss O'Hara states concerning planning and programming that, "The Department hopes, by proper preliminary programming, to avoid the perpetuation of past mistakes and to insure adequate study of the functional use of each institution in each system; the best method of providing in each institution efficient maintenance and economic usefulness of land and buildings and facilities . . . By the expenditure of \$385,547 by the Department of Welfare, we may reasonably hope to avoid the waste or loss of not less than five million dollars."

The requested expenditure for planning and programming would cover preliminary estimates of need, engineering and architecture, studies of functional use, flow of patients displaced and flow of projects. The above amount of \$385,547 is anticipated for the coming biennium and represents one-half of one percent of the total appropriation figures.

It is broken down on an institutional and budgeted expenditure basis as follows:

| | <i>Construction and Rehabilitation</i> | <i>Planning and Programming</i> |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Mental Institutions | \$47,156,400 | |
| Feeble-Minded Institutions | 10,461,820 | |
| Institutions for Epileptics | 1,624,800 | |
| | \$59,243,020 | \$296,215 |
| Penal, Correctional and Juvenile Delinquent Institutions | 15,000,000 | 75,000 |
| Medical-Surgical Hospitals | 2,876,400 | 14,332 |
| | \$77,119,420 | \$385,547 |

Section V

CONCLUSIONS

Very few of the citizens of Pennsylvania have the slightest idea of the needs of these three important groups of institutions whose activities and adequacy are the responsibility of the Department of Welfare. It is a very easy matter for any administration to overlook them in favor of more popular works such as roads and bridges which can so easily be seen and recognized. We think Governor Edward Martin should be highly commended for his willingness and desire to not only face the facts but try to remedy the deficiencies. We deem it our duty here today to carry through under the act which caused our existence and not only make wise recommendations to our Governor but support him in his desire to carry them through to completion. In making these recommendations it is not our thought that the work be rushed to completion but on the other hand that engineering should be started with a view of doing the work when the materials and labor are available, when it will best fit into the picture of national economy and furnish work for returning veterans.

Many of these institutions are like cities unto themselves in that they are so situated that they require all utilities such as water, light, heat, power, roads and sewage disposal. They not only provide accommodation for the patients, but food and housing for the employees as well, together with garage, equipment sheds, etc., etc. This accounts in a measure for the ultimate apparent high cost when we think in terms of patient population. We honestly believe that some necessary construction to accommodate help will reduce the rate of labor turnover.

Some of the institutions we have discussed are old and many buildings and some equipment require replacement. In 1927 the State attempted a construction program and funds were appropriated with a schedule of further important appropriations for succeeding biennia. This long term program was necessarily stopped by the depression which made it necessary to divert funds to Public Assistance. In the 1935-39 administration, the General State Authority was set up and made considerable headway on needed institutional construction. Then

came the war which virtually stopped all construction. Plans should now be made to continue the work.

The institutions under discussion have four major problems:

- (1) Insufficient beds and Patient Accommodations.
- (2) Insufficient service utility.
- (3) Obsolete equipment in some cases.
- (4) Inadequate housing and accommodations for Employees.

Section VI

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Post-War Planning Commission endorse in general the recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Penal and Correctional Affairs, of the Governor's Board for the Study of Pennsylvania Mental Hospitals and of the Department of Welfare's recommendations concerning State medical and surgical hospitals. It must be remembered, however, that such comprehensive programs cannot be accompanied by exact dollar value estimates. Nor can they be approached with too much haste. They should be evolved through meticulous study slowly and economically with the long range goal an ideal toward which to strive, without necessity, however, for immediate over-all accomplishment.

Along with the general endorsement of the principles of adequate extension and rehabilitation of our State Mental, Correctional and Medical-Surgical Institutions, it is recommended that subject to the over-all bugetary requirement of the State for the 1945-1947 biennium the sum of \$385,547 be appropriated directly to the Department of Welfare for the purpose of planning and programming in conjunction with the construction and rehabilitation program.

The Commission further recommends that a study be made at once by the Governor's staff to devise appropriate means of financing the construction program of the Department of Welfare as finally determined, and that the present Legislature be requested to take such action as may be required to implement such financing plans.



Gaylord



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