

Western MR Institution Study Published

BOULDER, Colo. — A survey of 22 state institutions in 13 western states shows that almost one third of the residents fall in the moderately to mildly retarded categories and less than two thirds are classified as profoundly or severely retarded.

The statistics have been published in the report of a three-year project conducted by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education under a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The survey shows the following breakdown of degree of retardation:

3%	Borderline
11	Mild
23	Moderate
28	Severe
35	Profound

More than 60 per cent never go home, 30 per cent have no visitors and 28 per cent receive no mail.

The average age of the residents was 24 years; the average length of time they had been in the institutions, 12 years. In more than 32 per cent of the cases, the cause of retardation was unknown.

Approximately two-thirds of the residents were on drug medications and more than one third had special diets.

In studying behavior, it was found that more than 39 per cent are hyperactive; 40 per cent, passive; 32 per cent, aggressive, with 18 per cent sometimes attacking other residents.

Approximately 16 per cent destroy clothing; 11 per cent destroy ward property; 16 per cent are self-destructive, with 10 per cent requiring restraint.

More than 65 per cent have impaired speech; 32 per cent have problems understanding speech; 25 per cent cannot walk; 23 per cent

have impaired use of hands or arms; 17 per cent have visual difficulties and 9 per cent have trouble hearing.

In self-help areas, 72 per cent need help in grooming; 59 per cent in dressing; 47 per cent in brushing teeth; 42 per cent, in toilet use; and 19 per cent in eating.

Many participate in or are being considered for various programs: 25 per cent, school; 25 per cent, ward helper; 29 per cent, work projects in the institution; 13 per cent, outside work; 29 per cent, foster home placement; 19 per cent, nursing home placement.

Single copies of the project report, A Comprehensive Description of Institutionalized Retardates in Western States, are available free from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, University East Campus, 30th Street, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

Accreditation Council Meets

CHICAGO — Allen Menefee, office of mental retardation, State of Rhode Island, has been elected chairman of the newly established Accreditation Council for Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.

Kenneth Crosby, Ed.D., research scientist, New York State Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, has been appointed program director.

The council, sponsored by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, is working to develop standards, survey and accreditation procedures for residential facilities for the retarded.

The five national agencies composing the council and their representatives are:

NARC. Mrs. John F. Kephart, past member, residential services committee, and E. Gene Patterson,

consultant on program services.

AAMD. Mr. Menefee and William Sloan, Ph.D., chief, mental retardation services, State of Illinois.

American Psychiatric Association. Howard V. Bair, M.D., superintendent, Parsons, Kans., State Hospital and Training Center, and Jack Hammond, M.D., director, Willowbrook, N.Y., State School.

Council for Exceptional Children, Joseph S. Lerner, Ed.D., San Francisco State College, and Floyd E. McDowell, Ed.D., director, Metropolitan New York Regional Training Center.

UCP. Elsie D. Relsel, Ph.D., Washington, D. C. representative, and Sherwood A. Messner, director, services section, medical and scientific department.

The council elected Mrs. Kephart vice chairman and Dr. Relsel secretary.