

Correspondence to James R. Neely on
Report from FRTF Committee on Nursing Homes
(Wilkes-Barre), 1972 December

December 27, 1972

TO: James R. Neely
Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Report from the Flood Recovery Task Force
Committee on Nursing Homes (Wilkes-Barre)

FROM: Division of Professional Affairs

The report raises many complex questions, some of a technical nature, others as a result of H.R. 1 which will call for change in the State's program:

"Critical Shortage of Nursing Home Beds"

- Page 1 - Suggests use of out-dated and unidentified estimates of needs; does not differentiate between skilled nursing and intermediate beds. (Our calculations indicate 120 skilled beds needed; but further in their report 711 to 826 intermediate or skilled nursing beds are projected as need by 1975. How many of which?)
- Page 2 - Reference is made to a 1969 study. Inadequate reimbursement is the probable reason that the great majority of hospital patients awaiting placement are either Public or Medical Assistance cases. Reference is made to a report "of last Spring" that many nursing homes were not in compliance with Labor and Industry standards, although Labor and Industry did not adopt the Life Safety Code of 1967 until mid-May.
- Page 3 - Refers to restriction under Medical Assistance (60 days and hospital stay) that are supposed to be lifted. Note that H.R. 1 deletes any Public Assistance grants for nursing home and intermediate care and mandates these levels of care as Medical Assistance only.
- Page 4 - Indicates that intermediate care is the greatest need, but there is no data to substantiate the statement. We question whether a nurse's residence would meet the physical plant requirements for a skilled nursing home. We find no statistics as to how many beds are involved in new facilities already planned and/or under construction.
- Page 5 - It seems unfortunate that the Committee on Nursing Homes did not include representatives of non-profit nursing home or hospital representation for continuity of care discussions.

TSP/MCC/dm

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