

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Territories

January 30, 1953

Hon Ernest Gruening
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Governor Gruening:

Reference is made to my letter of March 27, 1952, in which I urged that the Territory make provision for the care of the mentally deficient. There are now at Morningside Hospital a relatively large number of children in that category, and for your information, I am enclosing a list of those aged sixteen and younger.

It appears to us to be of utmost importance that the Territory promptly assume responsibility for the care of these unfortunates. The Juvenile Code, we believe, provides the basis for such action and we hope that a suitable plan for care and treatment can soon be put into effect. Presumably an increased appropriation by the Legislature to the Department of Health or Department of Welfare would be required.

We have been stretching our authority under the Act of October 14, 1942, in accepting these children and in permitting them to remain at Morningside. The statute clearly authorizes care at Federal expense of persons who have been adjudged "insane" and who have been committed to a mental institution. It says nothing about persons, whether children or adults, who are mentally deficient. We have been accepting the children on a humanitarian basis when it appeared that there was no other place for them to go, but I have never been persuaded that it was genuinely humanitarian to care for them in an institution primarily devoted to the care of adult insane. These children are a responsibility of the Territory and should be recognized as such. If it appears necessary in order to overcome the evident inertia of the Territory that we refuse to accept mentally deficient children at Morningside in the future, or even that we take steps to discharge those presently in residence there, I am prepared to give serious consideration to such action. Before doing so, however, I should like to know what action the Territory is willing to take.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ James P. Davis

Director

Enclosure

COPY

January 12, 1953

PATIENTS AT MORNINGSIDE HOSPITAL UP TO SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Admitted</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Age</u>
Kenneth L. Greiman	2603	January 9, 1953	June 26, 1952	Male	Mongolism	6 Mos.
Patricia Ann Anderson	2596	December 26, 1952	Feb. 24, 1952	Female	Mongolism, mental deficiency	10 Mos.
Mary Sue Wood	2528	January 14, 1952	Oct. 20, 1951	Female	Mongolism	1 Yr.
() fery Parker	2575	Sept. 23, 1952	Oct. 10, 1950	Male	Mongolism, idiot grade	2 Yrs.
() acha Glover	2504	July 26, 1951	Mar. 27, 1950	Female	Mongolism	2 Yrs.
James White	2523	Dec. 19, 1951	Apr. 8, 1949	Male	Mental deficiency; pulmonary tuberculosis, far advanced	3 Yrs.
Madrona Dolchok	2548	May 24, 1952	Nov. 23, 1948	Female	Hydrocephalus, mental deficiency.	4 Yrs.
Gabriel Angapak	2581	October 24, 1952	July 28, 1948	Male	Mongolism; epilepsy	4 Yrs.
Glenn Glover	2441	June 15, 1950	May 20, 1947	Male	Mental deficiency; suspect pulmonary tuberculosis	5 Yrs.
() Janice Gaylord	2251	March 27, 1947	June 21, 1946	Female	Hydrocephalus; mental deficiency	6 Yrs.
() William Hartley	2423	February 21, 1950	Mar. 16, 1945	Male	Mental deficiency	7 Yrs.
Marilyn Bahnke	2217	July 23, 1946	Feb. 9, 1943	Female	Mental deficiency Spastic infantile paralysis, mild paraplegia	9 Yrs

COPY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Admitted</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Age</u>
Arlene Dill	2386	September 25, 1949	Jan. 7, 1943	Female	Mental deficiency congenital amblyopia	10 Yrs
Elmer James	2394	October 25, 1949	Nov. 28, 1942	Male	Mental deficiency dactylitis, now pre- sumed arrested	10 Yrs
William Smith, Jr.	2479	January 10, 1951	Sept. 3, 1941	Male	Mental deficiency, due to trauma during birth; paraplegia	11 Yrs
Martin Komok	2483	February 19, 1951	Aug. 1, 1941	Male	Mental deficiency; pulmonary tubercu- losis, far advanced	11 Yrs
Mary Carlson	2511	September 19, 1951	April 22, 1941	Female	Mongolism	11 Yrs
Paula Hoch	2427	March 22, 1950	April 19, 1941	Female	Mental deficiency congenital heart disease	11 Yrs
Alice Bell	2387	September 25, 1949	June 8, 1940	Female	Mental deficiency	12 Yrs
Mary Ann Kost	2058	November 23, 1946	-----	Female	Mongolism, mental deficiency	12 Yrs
Teresa Morgan	2435	April 13, 1950	Jan. 6, 1940	Female	Mental deficiency imbecile	13 Yrs
Kenneth Carlson	2131	April 6, 1945	May 28, 1938	Male	Mental deficiency	14 Yrs
Anesia Mike	2543	May 3, 1952	1937	Female	Mental deficiency idiot; epilepsy	15 Yrs
John Joseph	2546	May 7, 1952	Dec. 30, 1937	Male	Mental deficiency	15 Yrs

COPY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Admitted</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Age</u>
Paul Edmonson	2536	April 9, 1952	Oct. 5, 1937	Male	Mental deficiency, idiot, epilepsy; congenital cerebral spastic infantile paraplegia	15 Yrs
Bessie Bright	2586	November 21, 1952	Feb. 28, 1937	Female	Schizophrania, catatonic type, active pulmonary tuberculosis	15 Yrs
Irene Adams	2366	July 14, 1949	-----	Female	Mental deficiency; osteomyelitis chronic, right calcaneus, due to tuberculosis	16 Yrs
Raymond Jewel Griese	2327	September 25, 1948	Sept. 6, 1936	Male	Mongolism; mental deficiency, imbecile	16 Yrs
Ronald Worden	1938	August 25, 1941	June 14, 1936	Male	Mental deficiency;# epilepsy; paralysis, cerebral spastic, Hereditary, tetraplegia	16 Yrs

John 1952