



Minnesota

STATE PLANNING AGENCY

Room 100 Capitol Square Building
550 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55101

TOWN MEETING
BRAINERD
~~MINN~~ STATE HOSPITAL REGION
September ²⁴~~6~~, 1984

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Miriam Karlins
Town Meeting Coordinator

"FOR YOUR INFORMATION": A
REVIEW OF CURRENT STUDIES

Colleen Wieck, Ph.D.
Project Director

CITIZENS RESPOND

Audience Participation

Resource persons are available in the audience to answer questions and supply additional information.

In order to allow time for maximum audience participation, please limit your comments to three minutes.

Persons wishing to write or phone their suggestions, concerns, or questions may do so by writing to Colleen Wieck, Ph.D., Project Director, State Planning Agency, 201 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, or phoning (612) 296-4018.

A one-day, toll free call-in will be held statewide on Tuesday, October 16, 1984, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The procedure will be for the caller to dial 1 (800) 652-9747 and ask to be connected to the "State Hospital Study." The state operator will then connect the caller to our phone.



JAMMED CAFETERIA — While Miriam Karlins (left) and Colleen Wleck represented the State Planning Agency, area people packed the Brainerd High School

cafeteria Monday night for a town meeting on the state hospital. (Dispatch Photos by Jim Carney)

What if they called a
town meeting and

**Everybody
showed up**



LIBRARY LISTENERS — Some of the crowd occupied the high school library and listened to the remarks in the

cafeteria over an intercom system. Randy Moghuni (foreground) was all ears.

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MAKING A POINT — Merv Campbell, retired Brainerd banker, referred to statistics in a newspaper article as

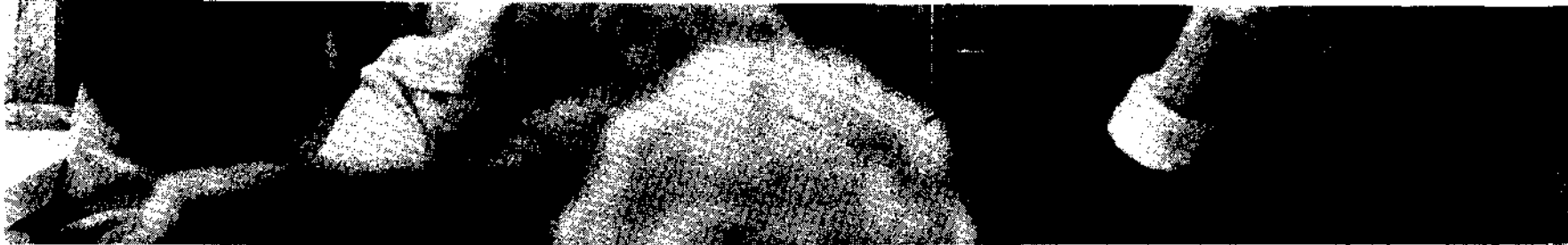
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magazine that spoke of a failure of a nationwide program to reduce the population of state hospitals.



We SUPPORT
The BRAINERD STATE HOSPITAL





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THE MESSAGE — Miriam Karlins of the State Planning Agency gave a presentation in front of

a sign that said it all for the crowd at the town meeting.



LINED UP — Herb Thiesse (right), Crow Wing County commissioner, had the floor while Lucy Nesheim (left), former state hospital employee and county board candidate, Pat Roth, Bemidji

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Nesheim (left), former state hospital employee
and county board candidate, Pat Roth, Bemidji

social worker, and Jim Koerper, president of St.
Joseph's Medical Center, waited for their chance
to speak.



EDITORIAL

They did it again

The people of Brainerd and Crow Wing County have come through again. They jammed the high school Monday night for the town meeting on the future of Brainerd State Hospital.

The turnout was so overwhelming that many people went home without ever entering the building. Others milled around the halls for a while and left. Others sat through the whole session and probably never heard a word.

But they wanted the people from the State Planning Agency to see that Brainerd cares. Brainerd showed them they cared so much that the state ought to consider adding a couple of buildings to the hospital complex.

If a meeting about a state hospital can draw this big of a crowd, someone should call Carl Pohlad. Maybe the Twins' owner would consider moving the franchise up here.

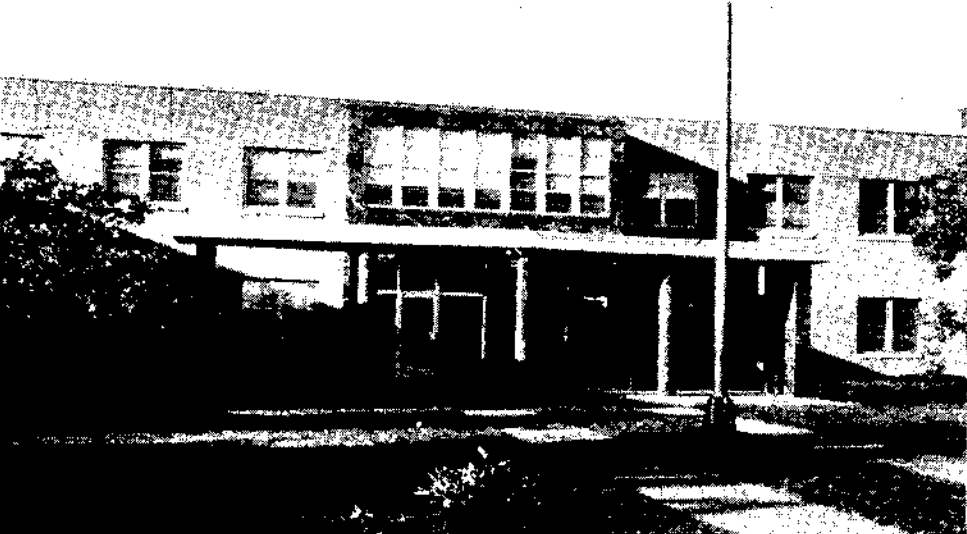
It's clear the organizers miscalculated how many people they could drum up for the meeting. But, when you get right down to it, where's a better meeting place for that large a crowd?

The overflowing turnout points up another need: a new convention hall. But, before the chamber of commerce starts stirring up interest for that project, let the people rest and enjoy an evening in front of the fire.

Sunday Brainerd Daily Dispatch

9/23/84

People to gather to air views on h



THE ADMINISTRATION building at Brainerd State Hospital. (Dispatch Photo)

A wide cross-section of the Brainerd community is expected to be on hand Monday night when the State Planning Agency conducts a "town meeting" on the future of Brainerd State Hospital.

The importance of the meeting, which is scheduled from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Brainerd High School cafeteria, was stressed by Tom Fitzpatrick, who co-chairs a special committee set up to urge residents to attend the meeting.

With its annual payroll in excess of \$16 million and large staff, he said, "If that facility (the state hospital) happened to close, it would make the closing of Burlington Northern around here look like a drop in the bucket."

The State Planning Agency is conducting an in-depth study of Minnesota's state hospital system in light of a trend toward moving hospital residents to smaller, community-based group homes.

After completion of the study, the agency will make a report and recommendation to

the State Legislature on the possible closure of one or more state hospitals.

Fitzpatrick said Monday's meeting will include brief introductory remarks from agency officials, after which those in attendance may ask questions and make comments.

A special committee set up by the Brainerd Area Chamber of Commerce has invited representatives from several fields to speak, including medicine, the Indian population, the judiciary, ministerial association, labor, Camp Confidence, nursing homes, area legislators and others.

Fitzpatrick stressed that there has been no format set up for those attending the session, with anyone allowed to speak at any time.

"Although we have made an effort to see that all areas are covered, the format is such that nobody is going to be shut out," he said. "They won't be interrupting a pre-set, established program."



PACKING THEM IN — Brainerd State Hospital supporters filled the Brainerd High School cafeteria and spilled out into the hallways, the teachers' lounge and library Monday night in one of nine town meetings be-

ing held throughout the state on possible state hospital closings. The opinions which were expressed will be relayed to the State Planning Agency which is expected

to make a recommendation to the Legislature by the end of the year. Additional photos (Dispatch Photo by Jim Carney)

Speeches galore at state hospital n

By **MIKE O'ROURKE**
City Editor

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Quincy 9/23/87 Brainerd State Hospital

SUPPOSE . . .

they held a **TOWN MEETING**



Your presence and opinion [

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER

7:00 P.M. AT THE HIGH SCH

Paid For By Concerned Members Of The Brain