

MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ATLANTIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR MENTAL RETARDATION

Date: June 6th, 1969

Place: Committee Room - 15th Floor, Sir Charles Tupper Medical
Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

Chairman: Mr. I.M. MacKeigan, Q.C.

Present: Dr. M.S. DeWolfe
Dr. R.B. Goldbloom
Dr. C.B. Stewart
Dr. R.O. Jones
Miss Lillian Romkey
Mrs. Ella Wood
Dr. J.L. Saunders
Dr. John Stanley
Mr. W.R.E. Butler

Absent: Mr. John Walker
Mr. Douglas Bannon
Dr. Clarence Pottle
Dr. Allan Roehrer

As the minutes of the previous meeting held on June 7, 1968 had been circulated to all members of the Board of Directors, Dr. R.B. Goldbloom moved the adoption of the minutes as circulated. This was seconded by Miss Lillian Romkey.

Mr. I.M. MacKeigan gave the Chairman's Report. He announced the appointment of Mrs. Ella Wood replacing Mr. Charles Fisher as the representative of the Prince Edward Island Government and Mr. John Walker, replacing Mr. David Fraser as representative of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children, Nova Scotia Division.

Mr. MacKeigan asked for a resolution approving the continuing appointment of the members of the Board. This was moved by Dr. R.O. Jones and the motion was carried. Mr. MacKeigan reported on action taken since the previous meeting by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors:

July 10, 1968 Approval of funds for a Computer Operator to assist
Dr. R.F. Shaw.

July 16, 1968 Approval of funds for a Research Assistant to work with
Dr. M.S. DeWolfe.

November 16/68 Approval of \$6,000 for extra computer work for Dr.
R.F. Shaw.

April 2, 1969 Increase in salary maximum up to \$8500 per annum
for a Research Assistant to work with Dr. M.S.
DeWolfe.

Mr. MacKeigan asked for confirmation of these actions of the Executive Committee. Dr. John Stanley moved that these be approved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ella Wood and carried unanimously. Mr. MacKeigan asked that an Executive Committee be appointed for the coming year to deal with matters of new policy, new principles and unexpected expenditures. Mr. MacKeigan suggested that it would be wise to have the members of the Executive Committee in the Halifax area and proposed that the Committee consist of Mr. MacKeigan, Miss Romkey and Mr. John Walker. Dr. C.B. Stewart moved that the executive committee be Mr. MacKeigan, Miss Romkey and Mr. Walker. The motion was seconded by Dr. R.B. Goldbloom and as there were no further nominations the motion was carried unanimously.

The Director's Report was given by Dr. R.B. Goldbloom. A copy was circulated to all members and Dr. Goldbloom summarized this report briefly. Dr. Richard Shaw joined the scientific group in the Atlantic Research Centre as a Population Geneticist in August 1968. He is author of a number of significant publications in the field of population genetics and has a particular interest in the application of the computer to the solution of problems in population genetics. Mr. Allen Smith, a computer programmer with experience in genetics, was appointed shortly after the arrival of Dr. Shaw.

A continuation of the study of families with a variety of genetic problems has involved the carrying out of 150 chromosome analyses and approximately 40 families have been studied. One of the families studied has been reported at the annual meeting of the Canadian Paediatric Society. Another major project being carried out by Dr. J.P. Welch involves a survey of all Halifax School Children by height and weight. The purpose of this investigation is two-fold: first, to obtain normative data on development; second, to obtain a population for a cytogenetic screening which would include children either unusually tall or unusually short. Dr. Goldbloom pointed out that this would be related to a study on the XYY syndrome which was being carried out in Dorchester Penitentiary by Dr. Welch. This syndrome has been associated with asocial and/or criminal behavior. Dr. Goldbloom commented on studies concerning a variant of Neimann-Pick disease occurring in the French Canadian group living in the vicinity of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

Dr. Goldbloom announced the appointment of new members of staff:

Miss Winifred Smith has been appointed as Research Assistant to Dr. M.S. DeWolfe and will be taking up her position August 1st, 1969.

Dr. Matthew Spence who is at present Assistant Professor of Experimental Medicine at McGill University and a holder of a Medical Research Council Scholarship has been appointed as Associate Professor of Paediatrics, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Lecturer in Psychiatry. He will bring operating grants with him and will coordinate a program of Ph.D. training in Neurochemistry with the co-operation of the Department of Biochemistry. Dr. Spence will collaborate with Dr. Jones and Dr. Doane in Psychiatry thus providing a multi-purpose and multi-discipline approach to problems in brain chemistry.

Dr. Margaret Corey who is a Cytogeneticist at present at the University of British Columbia has been appointed to the Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation and will be taking up her duties here on September 1st, 1969. Dr. Corey is also an MRC Scholar and will be bringing operating grants with her. Dr. Goldbloom pointed out that both Dr. Spence and Dr. Corey as MRC scholars will have the major portion of their salaries paid by the Medical Research Council.

Dr. Stewart asked if notes showing the relationship of the different projects to Mental Retardation could be attached to the Director's Report.

Information regarding the address given by Dr. M.S. DeWolfe in Vancouver and a summary of work related to Mental Retardation should be included in the report. Dr. Stanley asked if circulation of copies of papers could be provided to the members of the Board for circulation in the respective Provinces to individuals who would be particularly interested in this work. He suggested that a popularized version of the Director's report should be prepared for submission to Government officials.

Dr. R.B. Goldbloom said he would prepare such a report. Dr. C.B. Stewart asked that problems which were not necessarily related to mental retardation but were carried out in the Centre should be included in the report.

Dr. Saunders asked if medical students were becoming more aware of the problems of mental retardation and if they were receiving information from the members of the centre. Dr. R.B. Goldbloom replied that through Drs. Welch, DeWolfe and Shaw the students were receiving lectures in the early medical years and that the students were continuing to have considerable experience at the clinical level. In addition they were following patients in the home and were becoming increasingly aware of the problems of mental retardation. Dr. Goldbloom and Dr. R.O. Jones are intimately involved in this program.

Dr. Stanley asked if genetic counselling was available from members of the Centre. Dr. Goldbloom said that both service and research chromosomal analysis was being carried on. Dr. Welch does genetic counselling at present and Dr. Corey will assist in this when she arrives. Dr. Stanley

asked how a genetic counsellor could be used in New Brunswick. He said that they have a prospect of getting one from Sweden and wanted to know who to talk to about genetic counselling. Dr. Goldbloom said Dr. J. Philip Welch could be of assistance.

Mr. MacKeigan asked to what extent the service was available to people outside the Halifax area. Dr. Goldbloom said this service was available to all of the Atlantic Provinces. Dr. C.B. Stewart asked if there had been publicity regarding this service. Dr. Goldbloom replied that the service had not been formally publicized but perhaps this could be done through the Department of Continuing Medical Education, Dalhousie University. Dr. DeWolfe asked if this was an insured service and Dr. Goldbloom replied that it was not at present but it was hoped that it would be soon. At present, the work is supported by a grant from the Nova Scotia Government.

Dr. Saunders asked if, when a child is being assessed at the Halifax Children's Hospital the Centre would be called in consultation. Dr. Goldbloom said that Dr. Welch would be called in consultation for all genetic problems and if a biochemical abnormality was considered that Dr. DeWolfe would be called in.

Dr. John Stanley brought up the question of education of the physicians practicing in the Atlantic Provinces and Dr. R.B. Goldbloom suggested that perhaps the Post Graduate Division could arrange a program designed for this purpose. Dr. R.O. Jones felt that an article in the Nova Scotia Medical Bulletin would certainly reach the practicing physicians in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Saunders asked if the Provincial Laboratories knew how to handle samples for cytogenetic study. Dr. Goldbloom said that the information could be obtained from Dr. Welch and that proper containers would be supplied by Dr. Welch's Laboratory.

Financial Report

Dr. Goldbloom presented the financial report. However, this was incomplete as it included only the monies received from the Provincial Governments and not the account for the Federal Grant. Mr. MacKeigan pointed out that a contribution had recently been received from the New Brunswick Government and that this should be shown in the financial report. He said that Prince Edward Island was one year in arrears, that is, they started one year later than the other Provinces but were honouring their five year pledge. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have made two payments each which included two fiscal years up to March 31st, 1969.

Dr. Goldbloom said that \$44,000 had been requested for the year 1969-70 and that \$40,000 had been granted. At Dr. Wride's request the grant has been changed to cover salaries only. Mr. MacKeigan pointed out that the unexpended balance was very large. He requested that a consolidated statement showing the total amount be prepared, that is, the

monies received from the Provincial Governments and the grant from the Federal Government. He also suggested that a budget statement should be prepared for the coming year.

Dr. Stewart suggested a comparison between the original budget of \$60,000 and the proposed budget of approximately \$ 75,000.

Dr. Stanley asked that the present report be suspended and be replaced by a revised edition. He felt that the present one should be removed as it gave a false impression of the financial expenditures of the Centre.

Dr. R.B. Goldbloom pointed out that the salaries allowed for the three technicians in the original budget were too low by present standards and that the actual salaries paid to technicians were much higher. He also said that, with the proposed future expenditures, the large unexpended balance would gradually be reduced. For example Dr. Welch has the opportunity of employing Miss Elizabeth Winsor, M.Sc., as a Research Assistant. Miss Winsor has considerable experience in cytogenetics and approval has been obtained from Dr. Wride for classification of Miss Winsor as a Research Assistant. However \$2,000 surplus salary will be required for Miss Winsor. For Mr. Allen Smith \$3,400 extra will be required from the Centre. He also said that the \$2,000 allowed for supplies in cytogenetics was not adequate and asked that this amount be increased by \$2,000. The appointment of Miss Winifred Smith at \$ 8,400 per annum will be another new expenditure from the Centre funds. Dr. Stewart asked if all salaries had been checked with Mr. Murray Cameron in his office e.g. the salary for Mr. Smith as a computer operator. He pointed out that it was essential that all employees should have salaries within the University scale.

Dr. Goldbloom moved that the additional expenditure of \$ 7,400 listed above be approved. Dr. R.O. Jones seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Dr. Goldbloom pointed out that in addition to the budget, Dr. Welch had received three grants which totalled \$ 34,500.

Mr. MacKeigan again commented on the unexpended surplus of the budget and asked how much money would actually be left at the end of the present calendar year. Dr. Goldbloom said that there would not be as much as had been to date. Mr. MacKeigan said that the Centre had not received the 1969-70 Provincial money and that these payments had not been requested yet. The Provincial Governments had been very generous and he suggested that it might be a mistake to build up too big a surplus. It might be wise to consider not asking for the money this year but request that the pledges be extended by one year. Dr. Stewart suggested that the funds be invested and the income added to the funds of the Centre and that this should be checked with Mr. MacNeil, Comptroller, Dalhousie University.

Mr. MacKeigan read the section from the minutes of the last annual meeting when this same problem was discussed and it was decided at that time that it would be better to have the Provinces continue their annual contributions as originally arranged. Dr. Stewart and Dr. Goldbloom suggested that possibly a special letter should accompany the revised budget explaining the situation. Dr. Stewart felt that it was easier to leave the annual payments as they are at the present time. Miss Romkey pointed out that Government's budgets are decided upon quite awhile in advance and funds would already have been allotted for the annual payment. She also pointed out that Governments do change and perhaps a new Government may not feel obliged to honor the commitment. Dr. Goldbloom added that this problem of surplus funds would be decreasing from year to year. Dr. Stewart pointed out that there may be a problem when the five years involved in the pledged funds is up and payments from all Provinces would cease within one year. Mr. MacKeigan felt that it would be much better to continue getting the payments annually if this would not imperil relationships with the Provincial Governments.

Mrs. Wood asked to whom reports were given. Mr. MacKeigan replied that reports were given to all members of the Board who then informed their respective Governments and the Provincial Chapters of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children. Miss Romkey said that it had been the custom for the Government representatives to inform their respective Governments. Dr. Stanley said that he dealt with the Deputy Minister of Health. He felt that people should be informed of the progress of the Centre to stimulate interest.

Mrs. Woods said that Dr. J.P. Welch had been in Prince Edward Island and talked to the C.A.R.C. She did not think that the Government people were aware of this talk and they were not present. In addition, apparently the local doctors did not know of this talk. Mr. MacKeigan said that there appeared to be several problems:

- a) The members of the medical profession should be aware of what is being done.
- b) Members of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children would have a special interest.
- c) The Provincial Governments would be interested in both aspects, that is, the medical and that of the CARC. The report which Dr. R.B. Goldbloom is preparing and the financial statement will provide the information for the Provincial Governments.

Dr. Stewart asked if the grant from the Canadian Association for Retarded Children (that is the Federal Health Grant) was for three years or five years. Mr. Butler said that this grant was for five years and explained this portion of the grant. The Canadian Association for Retarded

Children approached the Federal Government for support but a direct application for Federal Government support had to come from individual projects. The Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation is the type of project which could be supported by the Federal Government but many of the crusade projects could not be supported from the Department of Health and Welfare. Thus crusade funds were used for the projects which could not be supported by Federal Government and projects, which could be, applied directly to the Department of Health and Welfare for support.

Dr. Stewart asked that the financial report state that the Health and Welfare funds had been arranged by the Canadian Association for Retarded Children.

Dr. Saunders asked what would happen at the end of the five years and Dr. Stewart said that hopefully support would be continued.

Mr. MacKeigan asked that reports to the Governments and to the Associations show how the money is being used. He proposed that the Centre carry on with requests for additional payment from the Governments but that probably this request should not be made until the end of the present calendar year for the current fiscal year.

Mr. MacKeigan then asked that proposals in a letter from Dr. Allan Roehrer (copies of which were supplied to each member of the board) be considered. Dr. Roehrer had asked that some effort be made to publicize the work at the Centre and also that the connection with the Canadian Association for Retarded Children should be emphasized. Mr. MacKeigan said that Dr. Goldbloom had done quite a bit locally with television and other media. Miss Romkey suggested that a small article in MR, the bulletin published by CARC, would be effective in acquainting the members of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children of the progress being made. Dr. Goldbloom announced that Mrs. Maxine Cochran has been appointed as Public Relations Officer for the Children's Hospital and suggested that Mrs. Cochran and Mr. D.R. Mann, Director of Information and Public Relations for Dalhousie University, could plan a program which might be ongoing. Dr. Goldbloom requested approval of a small amount of money to pay for the provision of stationery designed by a professional designer and for publicity.

Mr. MacKeigan felt that the announcement of the appointments of Dr. Margaret Corey and Dr. M.W. Spence should be made with suitable publicity for the Centre. Also, that the word should be spread in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island as well, as this is an Atlantic Centre.

Mr. Butler, suggested that effective publicity might be obtained if a liaison was arranged between Mrs. Cochran, Mr. Mann and Mrs. Betty Anglin, editor of the Mental Retardation Bulletin. Dr. Stewart suggested that Mrs. Cochran and Mr. Mann meet with Mr. Butler to plan a publicity

program. Dr. Roeher had suggested in his letter that Dr. William Gibson visit the Atlantic Research Centre as a Consultant. The purpose of such a visit is for evaluation and assistance.

Dr. Saunders said they had recently had an on site evaluation of the crusade program in Prince Edward Island. He felt that the publicity for Mental Retardation was perhaps not too energetic and that more publicity would be effective. Mr. Butler pointed out that the program of the opening of the Atlantic Research Centre made no mention of the CARC.

Dr. Stewart felt that if Dr. Roeher sent a writer for mental retardation publicity it would be better than having a visit from a scientist. He asked that Dr. Roeher be informed of this.

Dr. Stanley said that the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children in New Brunswick received no publicity and suggested that a member of the advisory committee from each Province be invited to visit the Centre. Mr. Butler said that he had included a report on the Centre in his report to the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children, Nova Scotia Division.

Dr. Stewart said that, however, we should accept Dr. Roeher's suggestion of sending Dr. Gibson. Mr. MacKeigan felt that 1) Dr. Roeher should be advised that the Centre would be happy to have a consultation visit from Dr. Gibson. 2) Dr. Roeher be asked for ideas regarding interpretation and publicity. Mr. MacKeigan asked Dr. DeWolfe to communicate these requests to Dr. Roeher.

Mr. Butler suggested that Mrs. Anglin might visit the centre and prepare an article for the Bulletin. Miss Romkey said that Mrs. Cochran~~e~~ might do an article for MR.

Dr. Stanley asked if Mrs. Cochran~~e~~ could attend Provincial Conferences. Mrs. Romkey said she was a good speaker and an excellent Public Relations person. She is a Home Economist by training. Dr. Stanley asked if Mrs. Cochran~~e~~ would have a travel budget in her position at the Children's Hospital and Dr. Goldbloom said that a travel budget for Mental Retardation should come from the funds of the Centre.

Mr. MacKeigan asked that a budget for publicity be worked out and Dr. Goldbloom asked that approval be made now for a small budget for letter head and publicity. Dr. Saunders moved that the sum of \$1,000 be approved for providing a letter head and for publicity. Dr. Goldbloom seconded this motion and it was passed unanimously.

Dr. Goldbloom suggested that the Clinical Investigation Laboratories in the I.W. Killam Children's Hospital should have a plaque with the name Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation and possibly also a plaque naming one of the laboratories the Manning Laboratory. Mrs. Manning had given \$50,000 to the Children's Hospital building fund which

was to be used for provision of laboratories for research in mental retardation. He suggested that the hospital should be approached now about the provision of such plaques.

Mr. MacKeigan suggested that the Executive Committee should proceed with the following matters:

- 1) A special meeting of the members of the Executive Committee with Mrs. Maxine Cochran~~e~~ and Mr. Mann to discuss a program of publicity for the Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation.
- 2) Design of a letter head for the Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation.
- 3) A report of action taken to all members of the Board of Directors.
- 4) Preparation and circulation of a revised financial statement to all members of the board.

Mr. MacKeigan felt that the Board of Directors should have another meeting before a full year has passed and suggested that early December might be a suitable time.

The meeting adjourned on motion at 5:30 p.m.