

NURSING HOME SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES  
INTERIM REPORT

On September 10 the Legislative Council approved the request of the Standing Committee on Social Services to study the housing problems for the chronically ill, the elderly, and those of low income who are unable to care for themselves in their own homes. The request noted that there is a critical problem in Iowa because of inadequate welfare allowances to induce operators of homes to admit welfare cases and a desire on the part of the Department of Health to phase out pre-1957 homes, those homes licensed before 1957 which do not meet present standards. The pre-1957 homes now house a majority of welfare and low income patients.

The members appointed to serve on the Subcommittee were: Senators Thomas J. Frey of Neola, George E. O'Malley of Des Moines, and Charles K. Sullivan of Sioux City; and Representatives A. June Franklin of Des Moines, Edgar H. Holden of Davenport, and Gerrit Van Roeki of Pella. At the organizational meeting, Representative Holden was elected Chairman. During the course of the four meetings, the Subcommittee heard Commissioner Dr. James F. Speers of the Department of Health, and Mr. Felix W. Pickworth and Mr. John W. DeBiak of the Health Facilities Service, Department of Health.

The Subcommittee studied the advisability of proposing legislation which would:

1. Provide several levels of health care facilities, classified by the extent of the services and care provided within the facility.
2. Base the rates or charges for care of welfare patients in a particular facility upon the classification of the facility.
3. Establish incentives for building and improving such facilities.
4. Coordinate state and federal programs which are related to the licensing of nursing homes.
5. Include in the classification system facilities operated by counties.
6. Establish more limited and less expensive categories of care for persons who are presently in custodial homes, but do not need actual nursing care.

Many of the proposed changes reflect problems that have developed since the present Chapter 135C of the Code was enacted in 1957. The Subcommittee studied Chapter 135C, proposals of the Department of Health, and laws and rules of other states. In some instances, the Subcommittee's recommendations are merely statutory enactment of a present rule or regulation promulgated by the Department of Health.

The recommendations, which are in the form of amendments and additions to Chapter 135C, are:

1. Establishing six levels of "health care facilities"; namely adult foster homes, boarding homes, custodial homes, intermediate nursing homes--Class I and Class II, and extended care facilities.

2. Licensing of all six levels of health care facilities.

3. Coordinating the rules and regulations for health care facilities which are issued by the Departments of Health and Social Services.

4. Initiating different programs within health facilities of each classification, which will help develop each resident's ability to handle his own affairs and care.

5. Establishing a care review committee at each facility, made up of professional people within the community, to periodically review the care each resident receives.

6. Requiring that each health care facility post its license to inform the public of the classification of service and care it provides.

7. Encouraging administrators of health care facilities to continually improve and upgrade the services and care within the facility.

8. Requiring that each health care facility have an individual contract setting forth the care to be provided each person admitted as a patient or resident.

The Subcommittee will meet again before the 1970 Session to formally approve the specific recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

REPRESENTATIVE EDGAR H. HOLDEN  
Subcommittee Chairman