

## Department of Social Services

(Office located on sixth floor, Lucas State Office Building)

### Introduction

The State Department of Social Services was created by an Act of the 62nd General Assembly. It combines the programs of the former Board of Control of State Institutions and the Board of Social Welfare.

The organization of the new department called for the Governor to appoint a five member Council of Social Services, comprised of citizens outside the department, and a Commissioner of Social Services.

The Council acts in a policy-making and advisory capacity. The commissioner is responsible for the administration of the department and the appointment of heads of the various bureaus and offices.

The first Council members, appointed early in 1968, were: F. James Bradley, chairman, Cedar Rapids; Frank L. Bailey, Des Moines; Harold E. Bernstein, Council Bluffs; Rev. C. Dendy Garrett, Mt. Pleasant; and Mrs. George Heikens, Spencer.

On January 10, 1968, Maurice A. Harmon was appointed commissioner, and the department officially began functioning under its new title on July 1, 1968.

The second Council of Social Services was appointed on May 6, 1969. Members are: Miss Lois M. Emanuel, Marion, Republican, chairman, term expires June 30, 1973; David J. Albert, Sioux City, Republican, term expires June 30, 1975; Mrs. Meredith U. Deevers, Bettendorf, Republican, term expires June 30, 1973; David F. McCann, Council Bluffs, Democrat, term expires June 30, 1971; and Fernice (Fritz) W. Robbins, Waterloo, Democrat, term expires June 30, 1971.

The present commissioner is James N. Gillman, appointed by Governor Robert D. Ray on August 18, 1969.

### Bureau of Adult Corrections Services

Nolan H. Ellandson, Director

The Bureau of Adult Corrections Services supervises the following institutions and facilities:

**The Women's Reformatory, Rockwell City, Miss Laurel Rans, superintendent, houses all women convicted of felonies within the State, as well as many who have been convicted of misdemeanors and received jail sentences.**

**The Iowa State Reformatory, Anamosa, Charles Haugh, warden, houses all adult males convicted of felonies for the first time up to the age of 30.**

**The Iowa State Penitentiary, Fort Madison, Lou V. Brewer, warden, houses all felons convicted for the second time or more, or who are above the age of 30.**

**The Iowa Security Medical Facility, Anamosa (moved to Oakdale in September 1969), Calvin Auger, acting superintendent, houses the mentally ill offenders, and also assists the courts in determining the sanity of persons prior to trial.**

**The Riverview Release Center, Newton, Herbert C. Callison, superintendent, is an adult pre-release center to which all parolees from the Men's Reformatory and the Iowa State Penitentiary are sent to spend four to six weeks prior to release. This indoctrination period is offered to ease the transition to a free society.**

**The Luster Heights Camp, Harpers Ferry, Donald R. Light, superintendent, administered through the Riverview Release Center, is a Conservation Commission camp where inmates of Fort Madison and Anamosa are placed in a testing situation.**

**Eagle Ridge Center, Anamosa, (authorized by the 1969 General Assembly) will provide intensive, short-term treatment for young first-offenders.**

**Work Release Centers, Des Moines, are sometimes referred to as "half-way houses." These centers serve inmates in the process of leaving a correctional institution to parole or discharge. Residents work in the community, pay their own room and board, and participate in approved community activities. Rufus Jones House for men is administered through the Riverview Release Center. The J. Thompson Apartments for women is administered through the Women's Reformatory.**

**Jail Inspection, to see that city and county jails meet minimum standards, is a function of this bureau. Failure to meet standards set by the department has resulted in the closing of several county jails, and others are likely to be closed if standards are not met.**

**The staff of Parole and Probation Services has been assigned to the Bureau of Adult Corrections. Serving the district court judges as well as the correctional institutions, is a staff of field agents. Upon the request of the judge, they make presentence investigations. The convicted person may be placed on probation, under the supervision of the State Department of Social Services, or may be sent to one of the correctional institutions. Whether on probation, or release from an institution, the field agents provide counseling and support in job-finding, living arrangements, and adjustments to free society.**

## **Bureau of Family and Children's Services**

**Kevin J. Burns, Director**

**The Bureau of Family and Children's Services plans community based programs of social services for children and youth and their families, and for adults. The work of the bureau is distributed among the following five divisions:**

**The Division of Income Maintenance and Adult Services, which develops procedures necessary to implement state and federal laws with respect to the payment of Old Age Assistance, Aid to Blind, Aid to Dependent Children, and Aid to Disabled.**

**The Division of Community Services, which issues licenses for private child caring agencies and foster care facilities, provides for the development of state-wide services for the protection and care of children, provides services covered by the Interstate Compacts on Children and Juveniles, develops homemaker services, and works with adult clients in training for employment. Other services include family life and planning, day care, placement of children, and work with the juvenile courts.**

**The Division of Institutional Services administers and supervises five institutions for children and youth. These are:**

**The Iowa Annie Wittenmyer Home, Davenport, James P. Holmes, superintendent, and The State Juvenile Home, Toledo, Philip J. Juhl, superintendent, are for the care of children who have been removed from their own homes by the Court. These are dependent and neglected children.**

The Training School for Boys, Eldora, Carle F. O'Neil, superintendent, and The Training School for Girls, Mitchellville, Mrs. Marie L. Carter, superintendent, provide care for legally designated "juvenile delinquents."

The Columbia Youth Forest Camp, RFD Chariton, was authorized by the 1969 Iowa General Assembly. It will be an "open" facility for boys with special problems, located on land owned by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

The Division of Veterans' Services operates the Iowa Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown, Jack Dack, commandant. This home receives discharged United States veterans who served in any of the country's wars, and whose income falls below a specified level.

### **Bureau of Medical Services**

Elmer M. Smith, Director

This bureau administers the medical service programs, including Title XIX (Medicaid), of the department. The purpose of the bureau is to provide quality medical services to all people who come within the jurisdiction of the various programs of the department. All persons receiving financial assistance through the public assistance programs are eligible for a wide range of health services, with bills incurred on their behalf paid directly to vendors. In addition to this Medicaid program, the bureau administers the Remedial Eye Care program, a state program designed to prevent blindness or to restore vision.

The Division of Institutional Medical Services is responsible for general medical care, nutritional and dietary services, general health and sanitation, preventive medicine, and accident prevention in the institutions under the supervision of the department.

The Division of Program Standards develops procedures to be followed by county and state staffs in processing applications for Medicaid and Remedial Eye Care.

The Division of Program Operation reviews and analyzes medical program costs, reviews application for Aid to Blind and Aid to Disabled, maintains general supervision of the Family Planning Program of the department, and maintains liaison with the State Medical Advisory Council and the various professional groups with whom it deals.

### **Bureau of Mental Health Services**

James O. Cromwell, M.D., Director, deceased Aug. 16, 1969

The Bureau of Mental Health Services supervises the State Mental Health Institutes at Cherokee, J. T. May, M.D., superintendent; Clarinda, John R. Gambill, M.D., superintendent; Independence, Selig M. Korson, M.D., superintendent and Mount Pleasant, Walter W. Fox, M.D., superintendent. These modern, psychiatric hospitals are equipped and staffed for the treatment of a variety of emotional problems. Most hospitals have special units for children, the treatment of the alcoholic, the geriatric patient, and in one hospital, the mentally retarded. An attempt is made to provide a broad spectrum of services including in-patient and out-patient services, consultative and educational services, emergency services, and even occasional day hospital services for patients living close enough. The hospitals provide a wide range of teaching programs. By law, the department is authorized to supervise the care of the mentally ill wherever they are cared for in institutions. The bureau is delegated this responsibility, and county homes are visited regularly by

community consultants from the institutions; they also visit some licensed nursing homes. The chief of the Bureau of Mental Health Services is the administrator of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health.

### **Bureau of Mental Retardation Services**

Conrad R. Wurtz, Ph. D., Director

The Bureau of Mental Retardation Services has broad responsibility for the mental retardation program development over the entire state. Major emphasis is on the development of local community programs and facilities for the care and training of the retarded.

The bureau supervises the two state hospital-schools at Glenwood and Woodward. These institutions are operated for the care, treatment, training, and habilitation of the mentally retarded. Emphasis is placed on an environment conducive to the improvement of patients, physically, mentally, emotionally, and educationally. Programs designed to meet individual capabilities and potentialities are developed, geared to the pace at which each patient can function.

The **Interagency Case Information Service (ICIS)** is also administered by the bureau. This is a case record exchange which serves the state's mentally handicapped. Some 270 local offices of various public agencies submit records of those clients diagnosed as mentally handicapped or retarded.

### **State Offices and Officers**

In addition to the five bureaus, there are other individuals and units directly responsible to the commissioner. Included are: Special Projects Director, Offices of Administrative Services, Research and Planning, Personnel, Public Information, and Architecture and Engineering. Directly responsible to the deputy commissioner are the units of Staff Development, Quality Control, Client Hearings and Appeals, Program and Activities Therapy, and Management Analysis. There is also a chief administrator of field operations, who supervises and coordinates the field workers headquartered in the area social service centers.

In all, the Department of Social Services employs about 432 men and women in the central and 10 area offices; 1,232 in the 99 county departments of social welfare, and 4,941 in the institutions.

**GILLMAN, James N., Des Moines**

**Polk County**

**Commissioner, Iowa Department of  
Social Services**

Born Dec. 31, 1926, at Mallard, Iowa. Attended Emmetsburg Junior College, obtained B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the State University of Iowa in 1953. Post graduate work taken at Drake University, Des Moines, 1964 and 1965. Served with the U. S. Navy 1944-46 during World War II, and again for 15 months, assigned to the U. S. Marines, during the Korean conflict. From 1959 to 1961, was assistant administrator of a hospital in Canton, Illinois. From 1961 to 1965, staff officer and consultant in community and hospital administration, Division of Mental Health, under the former Board of Control. Appointed Commandant of the Iowa Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown in February, 1965. Married Marilyn McQuoid of Milton, Iowa, and they are the parents of three sons, Matt, Tim and Chris.

