

Shawnee State University

Digital Commons @ Shawnee State University

Speeches

Ohio Speaker Vern Riffe Collection

3-21-1979

Challenges to Community Health Centers, March 21, 1979

Vern Riffe

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.shawnee.edu/vern_riffe_speeches



Part of the [Public History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Riffe, Vern, "Challenges to Community Health Centers, March 21, 1979" (1979). *Speeches*. 129.
https://digitalcommons.shawnee.edu/vern_riffe_speeches/129

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Ohio Speaker Vern Riffe Collection at Digital Commons @ Shawnee State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Speeches by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Shawnee State University. For more information, please contact svarney@shawnee.edu.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Speaker Riffe DATE March 16, 1979

FROM: Ann

SUBJECT: Speech for the Ohio Council of Community Mental Health Centers

--Wednesday, March 21, 1979 at 10:45 a.m.

--Hilton Inn
3110 Olentangy River Road

--The topic for the meeting is "Challenges to Community Mental Health Centers"

--You will be following Dr. Moritz who is the main speaker.

--You will speak at 10:45 a.m. for approximately 15 minutes. You will be followed by Senator Ocasek who will also be speaking for 15 minutes.

--They expect 100 people to attend - some will be from Portsmouth.

SPEECH FOR THE OHIO COUNCIL OF MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET WITH THE OHIO COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS THIS AFTERNOON. YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED GOALS OF WHICH YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. BY ORGANIZING THIS STATE'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER RELATED SERVICE AGENCIES UNDER ONE HEAD, YOU ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN OHIO. YOU ARE WORKING TO ACHIEVE A WORTHY GOAL.

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO COMMEND YOU ON THE EFFORTS WHICH GO INTO YOUR QUARTERLY MEETINGS. THE SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS PROVIDED GIVE MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, TO SHARE COMMON CONCERNS AND TO GAIN HELPFUL INFORMATION ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. I AM ALWAYS PLEASED TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE A PART OF THIS LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

YOU, AS LEADERS IN YOUR FIELD, ALREADY KNOW OF MY COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION. YOU ALSO KNOW OF THE COMMITMENT OF MY COLLEAGUE IN THE SENATE, OLIVER OCASEK. I ASSURE YOU THAT MY COMMITMENT AND MY INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE STRONG.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN PASSING LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES AND IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY TO THE CITIZENS OF OHIO.

EXAMPLES OF RECENT LEGISLATION INCLUDE:

1. SENATE BILL 71 (112TH G.A.)

ZONING FOR MENTAL RETARDATION COMMUNITY RESIDENCES.

(EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 31, 1977)

2. SENATE BILL 90 (112TH G.A.)

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH.

(EFFECTIVE AUGUST 30, 1978)

3. HOUSE BILL 191 (112TH G.A.)

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 1979 INCLUDED AN APPROPRIATION OF OVER 83 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION. OVER 63 MILLION DOLLARS OF THIS TOTAL WAS ALLOCATED FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

HOWEVER, I DO NOT WANT TO DWELL ON THE PAST, BUT RATHER TALK ABOUT THE CHALLENGE OF THE PRESENT.

THE COUNCIL'S PRESENT INTERESTS INCLUDE SUCH LEGISLATION AS THE MODERNIZATION OF THE 648 PROGRAM IN THE CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PATIENTS. THESE AND OTHER INTERESTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BUT THE ISSUE WHICH IS FOREMOST IN EVERYONE'S MIND AT THE PRESENT IS THE FUTURE FUNDING OF THIS STATE'S MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON TODAY IS THE CHALLENGE WHICH FACES COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS IN REGARD TO BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR THE COMING BIENNIUM.

AS YOU ALL MUST BE AWARE, WE ARE LIVING IN AN ERA OF INTENSE PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING. WE HAVE OBSERVED A MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA KNOWN AS PROPOSITION 13. VARIOUS TAX CUTTING PROPOSALS ARE IN EVIDENCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. EVEN IN OUR OWN STATE, WE ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13, A RESOLUTION PROPOSED IN AN EFFORT TO REQUIRE BALANCING OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

IT IS OBVIOUS THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY AT THE PRESENT TIME WILL NOT ALLOW STATE LEGISLATURES TO PASS EXTENSIVE NEW SPENDING PROGRAMS.

FRANKLY, I BELIEVE THAT THE MOOD OF THIS SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFLECTS THE NATIONAL MOOD TOWARD HOLDING THE LINE ON GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AND TAXATION.

IN ALL HONESTY, MOST OF THE MONEY AVAILABLE IN THIS BUDGET WILL BE APPROPRIATED TO CONTINUE EXISTING PROGRAMS AT CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS. IT SEEMS VERY LITTLE FUNDING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPANDING EXISTING PROGRAMS AND FOR FUNDING ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS.

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY CITIZENS ARE JUMPING ON THE BANDWAGON TO CUT GOVERNMENT SPENDING WITHOUT GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE CONSEQUENCES.

WE, IN GOVERNMENT, REALIZE JUST HOW VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES ARE. WE PERFORM NECESSARY FUNCTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITIES WHICH THE PRIVATE SECTOR DOES NOT PROVIDE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE AREA OF MENTAL HEALTH.

HISTORICALLY, PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS FILLED THE GAPS LEFT OPEN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE PUBLIC HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING UP THE ROLE OF HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE.

ALL OF US, WHO WORK AS PUBLIC SERVANTS, MUST RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SHOW THAT WE PERFORM THESE SERVICES ECONOMICALLY AND EFFICIENTLY. WE MUST PROVE THAT THESE SERVICES ARE TRULY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY. WE MUST PROVE THAT THESE SERVICES ARE NECESSARY AND VITAL TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE. WE MUST EARN THE TRUST OF THE CITIZENS.

IT IS OUR CHALLENGE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PUBLIC THAT WE ARE WORTHY OF THEIR TRUST IN EVERY WAY. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST NEVER ABUSE THAT TRUST.

YOU MUST MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE. EVERY CITIZEN OF OHIO NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF THE PROGRAMS THAT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS PROVIDE. EVERY OHIOAN NEEDS TO KNOW NOT ONLY HOW MANY PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, BUT HOW MANY ADDITIONAL PEOPLE NEED TO EXPERIENCE THESE PROGRAMS IN THEIR LIVES.

I SEE YOUR CHALLENGE AS EDUCATION -- EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT
THE NEEDS AND BENEFITS OF YOUR PROGRAM -- AND I SEE YOUR CHALLENGE AS
BUILDING A CONSTITUENCY FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS HERE IN OHIO.

YES, THE CHALLENGE IS A TREMENDOUS ONE -- BUT I KNOW THROUGH
HARD WORK AND COMBINED EFFORTS THE CHALLENGE CAN AND WILL BE MET.