



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SANATORIUM

An Inventory of Its Records

Part or all of this collection is restricted.
For details, please see the restriction statement.

OVERVIEW

- Agency:** Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium.
- Series Title:** Sanatorium records.
- Dates:** 1914-1957.
- Abstract:** Minutes and proceedings of the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium Commission, biennial reports of the sanatorium (1919-1929), and admission books.
- Quantity:** 1.4 cu. ft. (1 box, 1 partial box, 1 loose volume).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium was established pursuant to a legislative act [Laws 1913 c500] that empowered boards of county commissioners to establish and maintain sanatoriums for the care and treatment of persons who were afflicted with tuberculosis. The act also allowed the cooperation of two or more counties in establishing and maintaining such a sanatorium. Any decision to build and maintain a county sanatorium was, however, subject to the advice and approval of the Commission of the Minnesota Sanatorium for Consumptives.

In 1914, the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock formed an association to build, maintain, and share the services of the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium, which was constructed (and opened in 1917) on the south shore of Lake Okabena near Worthington in Nobles County. Early in 1918, the sanatorium was forced to close due to an inadequate water supply; however, it reopened in April, 1919. The Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium Commission, which controlled the facility, was composed of members from all of the counties involved. Three members, one a physician, were appointed by the Nobles County Board of Commissioners, and two members were appointed by each of the other counties' boards of commissioners.

The sanatorium provided for the care and treatment of patients afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis and also provided follow-up services for discharged patients through public health nurses in each county. Members of the sanatorium staff administered tuberculin tests

and X-rays to adults, and to children through the public school system. In 1948, the original eight counties in the association were joined by the counties of Blue Earth and Watonwan, and Le Sueur and Redwood counties joined in 1954.

A significant decrease in the number of tuberculosis patients being admitted to the sanatorium necessitated its closing in 1957. Patients still receiving treatment at the sanatorium were transferred to other facilities in the state for tuberculosis care and treatment. The facility was sold by the sanatorium commission to the Southwestern Minnesota Crippled Children's Hospital-School, Inc. [Minn. Stat. 376.54]. The sanatorium commission was dissolved in October, 1957. The counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, and Redwood joined the Riverside Out Patient Clinic in Granite Falls, which administered tuberculosis control programs and provided out-patient diagnostic treatment.

List of superintendents: Edward J. Murray, 1917-1918; S. A. Slater, 1918-1957.

ORGANIZATION

These records are organized into the following sections:

- Minutes and proceedings of the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium Commission.
- Annual reports of the sanatorium.
- Admission books.

RELATED MATERIALS

Public Examiner: Audit Reports of Sanatoriums includes audit reports for the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium, 1917-1959. Some administrative files may be found scattered among various records series of the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare. For other records that may relate to this institution, see the Minnesota Dept. of Social Security, State Board of Control, and/or State Board of Corrections and Charities.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Health--Minnesota.
- Public health nurses--Minnesota.
- Public institutions--Minnesota.
- Public welfare--Minnesota.
- Registering.
- Sanatoriums--Minnesota--Accounting.
- Sanatoriums--Minnesota--Administration.
- Sanatoriums--Minnesota--History.
- Sanatoriums--Minnesota--Inventories.
- Sanatoriums--Minnesota--Officials and employees.
- Sanatoriums--Minnesota--Outpatient services.

Minutes documenting formal activities of the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium Commission regarding program implementation, admission of member counties, purchase of equipment, and other sanatorium functions. The minutes contain names of commissioners and officers; lists of patients receiving "free" treatment; reports of the auditing committee and the executive committee; and financial statements.

Location

- 111.E.10.6F Biennial reports, 1919-1930. 6 items in 1 folder.
 Biennial reports of the superintendent of the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium, submitted to the Southwestern Minnesota Sanatorium Commission. They contain lists of staff members and members of the sanatorium commission and executive committee; reports regarding conditions, policies, and needs of the institution; financial statements and inventories; and admission, discharge, and treatment statistics.
- 106.D.15.3B-1 Admission books, 1917-1957. 3 volumes.
 Registers of patients admitted to the sanatorium. Information recorded: name, address, county of residence, date of admission, rate of pay, and who is guaranteeing payment; father's name, address, nationality, and birthplace; mother's name, address, nationality, and birthplace; name and address of nearest friend or relative; occupation; stage of the disease; bacilli in sputum; complications; condition on discharge; and cause and date of discharge.
- RESTRICTED**
- 1917-1946. 1 volume.
- 106.H.2.9 1946-1957. 1 volume.
- 106.D.15.3B-1 July 1949-May 1954. 1 volume.
 Entries duplicates all or most of the entries in the main admission books but lacks the family information and most of the medical data. Entries do list height and weight, which are not recorded in the main books.