

Oakland can't decide who's in charge

The Oakland County Medical Facility is in danger of losing approximately \$2 million in federal funds annually because its administrator does not have a license, according to the Michigan Department of Public Health.

Health officials also listed 17 other deficiencies which must be corrected before the facility can be certified for federal

Medicare/Medicaid funds.

The deficiencies were spelled out in a letter recently released by County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

Murphy fired Charles Edwards, facility administrator, because he lacked a license and for what Murphy called general incompetence.

He replaced Edwards with James Eddy,

assistant administrator, who was licensed two weeks ago.

The firing was overturned by the Oakland County Circuit Court, however, and Edwards regained his position as administrator. The court ruled that, although Murphy acted in good faith and in accordance with a legal opinion from the county's attorneys, he did not have the authority to fire Edwards.

The court ruled that only the Board of Institutions could remove Edwards. The board has consistently defended Edwards.

The commissioners could then direct the county executive to correct the problems there.

"As matters now stand, we have a Democratic Party hack—Charles Edwards—being protected by a Democratic controlled board of institutions, which was appointed by a Democratic controlled board of commissioners, and which sought the assistance of a Democratic legislator in obtaining a legal opinion from a Democratic attorney general to support actions which are leading to a financial disaster at the medical care facility," said Murphy.

"Charles Edwards is not running a medical facility, he is running a political institution. The patients are not being properly served; the staff is poorly treated, and the public is about to be ripped off for \$2 million a year."

"This medical care facility is primarily a place of refuge for our elderly who are too sick to be cared for in private nursing homes.

"It is a shame and a scandal for Charles Edwards and the board of institutions to callously use these senior citizens to advance their own ends."

Three problems associated with construction of the new facility have been noted. The remaining 14 deficiencies including Edwards' licensing, are the responsibility of the board of institutions and Edwards himself, Murphy said.

THE FACTS ARE now crystal clear for any who would see them," said Murphy.

"We cannot have a well-run medical care facility as long as Charles Edwards is administrator. Even if he were competent, his presence alone will cost the county's taxpayers millions of dollars. He must be replaced by a licensed administrator as soon as possible."

"The board of commissioners now has a resolution before it that would abolish the board of institutions which has run away from the problem for so long," he said. "I urge the commissioners to take immediate action on this resolution so that we can be assured of the continuation of federal funding."


In addition to abolishing the board of institutions, the resolution would give the commissioners policy control over the med-

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Hiring center opens for Plaza

Job applications for Detroit Plaza, the hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center, are being processed at the hotel's employment center, 415 Griswold, Detroit.

Applications are accepted in person from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.

More than 1,800 jobs will be filled for the

73-story luxury hotel, owned by Western International. About 30,000 applications are expected for the jobs.

"The majority of these new positions will not be filled until February 1979 but our employment search is now fully underway," said Sherry Fortenberry, director of personnel.

Among the jobs are positions as chefs and cooks, waiters and waitresses, bartenders, room attendants, guest service attendants, maintenance personnel, file clerks, typists, tour guides, telephone operators and front office agents.

There are 50 hotel employees at work on pre-opening planning. Another 250 managers will be hired, many from the Detroit area, before March.

The hotel is scheduled to open March 1, 1979.

Conference thinks metric

A two-day conference may help those who have been facing the coming of the metric system with dread.

The conference designed to update the Great Lakes region on North American implementation of the new standard of weights and measures will be held Oct. 14 and 15 at the Engineering Society of Detroit.

Special emphasis will be given to accelerated metrication activity spurred by Congressional passage of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975.

Presentations by government and industrial leaders will be followed by a series of specialized sessions aimed at providing practical solutions to metric problems.

Areas to be highlighted are engineering, manufacturing, construction, consumer affairs and training.

Howard Kretz, executive vice president of General Motors Corp. will give the keynote address. Others featured on the program include Dr. Howard Forman, deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce; Richard Hard, chairman of the American National Metric Council and vice president of Bethlehem Steel Corp.; and Paul Boree, executive director of the Canadian Metric Commission.



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