

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

AS ORGANIZED MAR. 1, 1939

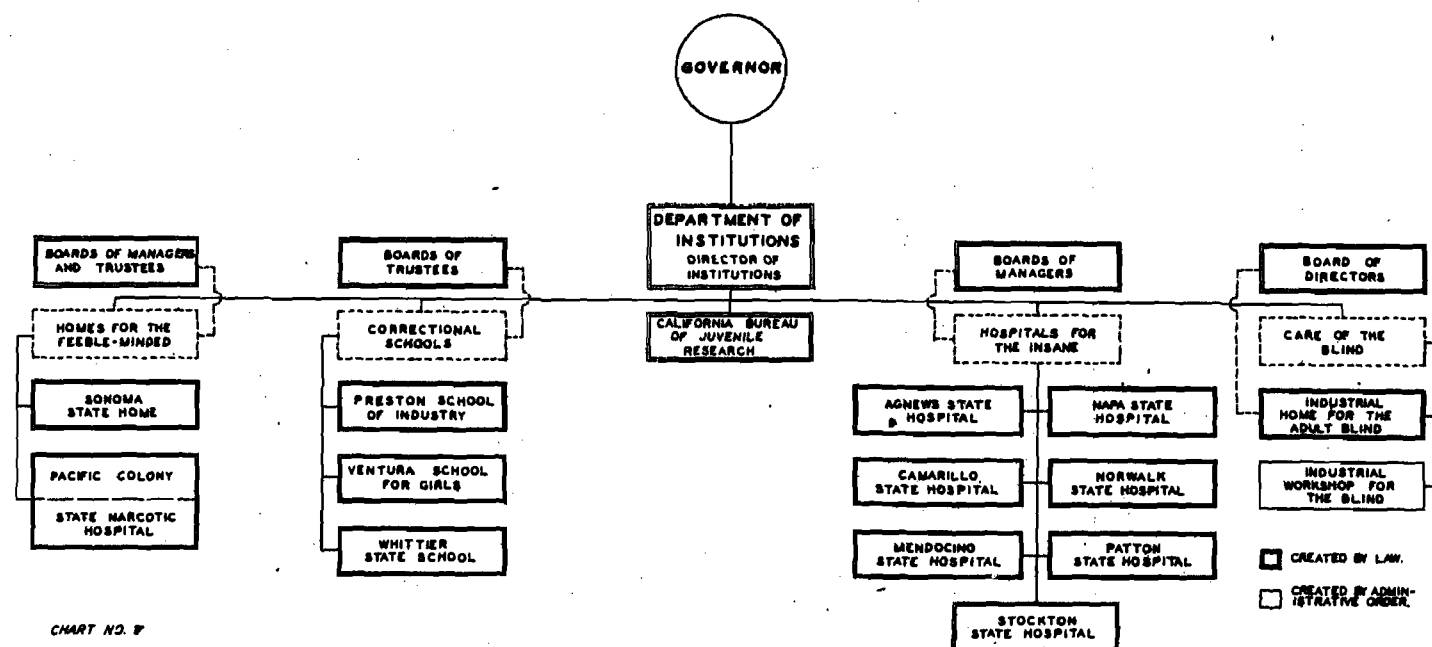


CHART NO. 8

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS
As Organized March 1, 1936

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE

Agnews State Hospital
Camarillo State Hospital
Mendocino State Hospital
Napa State Hospital
Norwalk State Hospital
Patton State Hospital
Stockton State Hospital

HOMES FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED

Pacific Colony—State Narcotic Hospital
Sonoma State Home

CORRECTIONAL SCHOOLS

Preston School of Industry
Ventura School for Girls
Whittier State School

CARE OF THE BLIND

Industrial Home for the Adult Blind
Industrial Work Shop for the Blind

RESEARCH BUREAU

California Bureau of Juvenile Research

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

The Department of Institutions and the office of Director of Institutions were created in 1921 (Stats. 1921, ch. 610, p. 1047; approved May 31, 1921, in effect July 30, 1921). A centralization of authority, finances, and management of the various institutions of the state concerned with the care of the insane, the feeble-minded, the delinquent, and the adult blind was effected by this act. Each institution had existed previously as more or less an autonomous unit, although a uniform system of government for the state hospitals for the insane, under the control of the State Commission in Lunacy, had been provided as early as 1897.

By the terms of the act the department succeeded to and was invested with all the duties, powers, jurisdiction, etc., of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Home for the Adult Blind; the Boards of Managers of the Stockton State Hospital, the Napa State Hospital, the Agnews State Hospital, the Mendocino State Hospital, the Southern California State Hospital, the Norwalk State Hospital, and the Sonoma State Home; the Boards of Trustees of the Pacific Colony and the Industrial Farm for Women; the General Superintendent of State Hospitals; the State Commission in Lunacy; the Boards of Trustees of the Whittier State School, the Preston School of Industry, and the California School for Girls; and the State Dental Surgeon.

The offices of General Superintendent of State Hospitals, State Commission in Lunacy, and State Dental Surgeon were abolished; but the boards of directors, managers, and trustees of the various institutions were continued in force and constituted advisory boards to the Department of Institutions, with powers of visitation and advice only.

In 1936 there are sixteen institutions functioning under the jurisdiction of the Department of Institutions. These include, in addition to those listed above, the Camarillo State Hospital and the Industrial Work Shop for the Blind, both created in 1929; and the California Bureau of Juvenile Research, made an independent unit in 1931.

The Department of Institutions differs from most of the other branches of the state government in that it is not organized into divisions and bureaus. Its subdivisions consist simply of the individual institutions which comprise it. The identity, character, and internal organization of these institutions were unimpaired by the creation of the department in 1921. This being so, the complete history of each

agency is given below under the name of that agency in the section on present organization. The only material that has been segregated into a historical section before 1921 relates to general administration; in short, to the State Commission in Lunacy, and to the State Dental Surgeon.

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Historical: before 1921

State Commission in Lunacy and General Superintendent of State Hospitals

1897 The State Commission in Lunacy was created in 1897. Many years earlier a Commissioner in Lunacy had functioned for a brief period, but his appointment had been authorized for a very special purpose. The statutes of 1869-1870 (ch. 93, p. 90; approved and in effect Feb. 19, 1870) provided for the appointment of a commissioner who should visit the principal insane asylums of the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, France, and Germany, and report on the history and management of these institutions, with statistical data. The commissioner was to hold office until the first Monday in December, 1872.

The State Commission in Lunacy was composed of five commissioners. Four of these were ex officio members and included the three members of the State Board of Examiners, and the secretary of the State Board of Health. The fifth member was the General Superintendent of the State Hospitals of California, which position was created by this act. The superintendent was to be appointed by the Governor for a term of four years, and he had to possess certain qualifications.

The act of 1897 was called the Insanity Law. The State Commission in Lunacy was charged with the execution of all laws relating to the care, custody, and treatment of the insane. It was to examine the state hospitals for the insane, and to make recommendations concerning these institutions to the Legislature. In 1903 (ch. 364, p. 485) the Insanity Law was made section 2136-2199 of the Political Code. The act of 1897 was repealed in 1921 (ch. 636, p. 1071). The State Commission in Lunacy and the office of General Superintendent of State Hospitals had, moreover, already been abolished by the law of 1921 which created the Department of Institutions.

Stats. 1897, ch. 227, p. 311. Approved and in effect Mar. 31, 1897.