

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN COBB**, on January 31, 1995, at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. John Cobb, Chairman (R)
Sen. Charles "Chuck" Swysgood, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Beverly Barnhart (D)
Sen. James H. "Jim" Burnett (R)
Rep. Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Sen. John "J.D." Lynch (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Douglas Schmitz, Office of Budget & Program
Planning
Ann Boden, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: Community Impact Grants, Partnership Program, Community Impact Project
Executive Action: None.

Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst's (LFA) Office, referred the subcommittee to the write-up for Community Impact Grants outlined on pages B-138 and B-139 of the Executive Budget.

Kate Mrgudic, Partnership Project Coordinator, highlighted information provided to the subcommittee in the Report to the Governor and the 54th Legislature on the Partnership to Strengthen Families. **EXHIBIT 1**

She reminded the subcommittee of the importance of the mandate of the Department of Family Service (DFS), which is to protect children. She projects that partnership services will average \$2,500 a year per family compared to the base rate of \$4,800 a year per family.

Ms. Mrgudic commented that the Partnership Project is an essential and cost effective part of the DFS continuum of care. She reported that the \$1.3 million annual budget for the program represents six-tenths of one percent of the general fund budget. She concluded that for the first time the Department is investing resources in prevention and early intervention and truly protecting children from injuries that occur.

Dr. Mary Trankel, DFS Evaluation Contractor, informed the subcommittee the purpose of her evaluation arose from the Department's desire to have statistical tests conducted prior to development of the project. She outlined the rigorous evaluation components in her attached testimony. **EXHIBIT 2**

HEARING ON COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS Tape No. 1:A:27.9

Proponents' Testimony:

Barbara Sample, Director of Family Support Network, Billings, said the Family Support Network is a non-profit organization funded through federal and state grant monies. Twenty percent of its budget comes from donations and fund-raising. **Ms. Sample** said that through her membership with the Partnership Collaborative Task Force she became aware of the need to intervene with families. The Family Support Network thus implemented the Partnership Project in Yellowstone County.

She said that even though the services provided by her agency are very pragmatic, the importance of its efforts build families so they won't become members of the state system. She reported that the cost is \$6.40 to intervene with a family versus approximately \$32.00 at the foster care rate, thereby proving its cost effectiveness. In closing, she believed the project needs at least two years to see if it is successful.

Ron Hildebrand, Home Visitor for Family Support Network, said his purpose is to provide encouragement, support, and information to resolve any problems a family may have. Although he is not a professional in the field, he indicated that his expertise came from many years of practical experience. He feels that if families continue to be provided with the opportunity to benefit from family interaction programs and parental training, they will gain the confidence to resolve "provincialization" if shown they can do it.

Connie Lobb, Family Support Worker in the Libby/Troy area, said that she has witnessed many challenges and barriers facing families everyday. She indicated that barriers can be reduced and motivation can be increased by bringing services into family homes. She emphasized that it is essential to keep families and their children safe. In closing, she remarked that community programs provide the door for opportunity, change and growth but

most of all, that a door of hope is being provided for abused children.

Diana Campenella, Partnership Coordinator for Butte, discussed how the Families First Partnership in Butte is making the first attempt in Silver Bow County to develop a child abuse and neglect prevention program. She introduced **Terri Lanahan** who is a volunteer with the partnership project. **Ms. Campenella** said a variety of community organizations are involved with the project, but more importantly, she attributes the success of the project to the involvement of family members.

Terri Lannahan, Volunteer, Families First Partnership, Butte, said she is a survivor of childhood abuse. She described her experience as a victim and said she has been recovering from the traumatic effects on her life for the past seven years. She said she was testifying before the subcommittee to represent all of the faceless, voiceless people that are being abused. She emphasized the need to reach children at the youngest age possible by having prevention agencies available and indicated that children are the solution. She stressed the importance of strengthening family prevention programs in Montana. **Ms. Lannahan** now contributes to her community through volunteer work at Families First Partnership and the Battered Women's Shelter.

Bill Shumway, Developmental Education Assistance Program (DEAP), Miles City, said he is a Family-based Service Coordinator and Partnership Supervisor. He said DEAP's partnership program was relatively new and only had five families. He described the education provided to a single-parent participant which ranged from referrals to the Job Service Literacy Program to effective parenting skills. He claimed that support coordination of family education is the basis of DEAP's partnership project.

Sylvia Danforth, Director, DEAP, Miles City, spoke about DEAP's intensive intervention and prevention services which are provided to families whose children are in imminent risk of out-of-home placement because of abuse and neglect. She identified a gap in abuse and neglect services that exists. She distinguished features of the Partnership to Strengthen Families Project that would fill the gap.

Hank Hudson, Director of the Department of Family Services (DFS), wrapped up the Department's presentation by saying a few words about the Partnership Project. He claimed the project is the vehicle of transition from a past system that was abuse-centered, investigatory in nature and non-voluntary, to one that is family support centered and prevention oriented. This project possesses a number of qualities which the human service system in the future will need if it is going to work. It is preventative in nature, it places control in communities and has built in and funded an evaluation component which can provide answers to which aspects of services are successful.

Tape No. 1:A:27.9

Mr. Hudson provided the subcommittee with information about the refinancing activities and how they relate to the Partnership Project. **EXHIBIT 3** The funding for this effort in this biennium has been set at approximately \$2.7 million. The sources of the \$2.7 million which replaced general fund money were; IV-A Administration, SSI benefits, child support and parental contributions.

He said that during the executive session, the Department would request to work with staff from this subcommittee to develop language for HB 2 that will allow continued flexibility to use foster care dollars for the Partnership Project if the Department continues to shift foster care costs to parental contributions, child support, SSI and IV-A Administration. The Department wants to do the Partnership Project in the refinancing mode that it started in. If the Department continues in IV-A and parental contribution policies, the Partnership Project will continue to grow without additional general fund allocations specifically for the project.

Mr. Hudson then spoke about the federal grant titled IV-B, part two of the Social Security Act in the DFS budget for Family Preservation/Family Support. He said this is not identical to the Partnership Project because it is designed to serve a broader population and has distribution issues that would restrict duplication of disbursement of Partnership Project monies. He emphasized the federal grant is a great additional building block to the Partnership Project and requested subcommittee support for spending authority of the federal funding.

HEARING ON PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM Tape No. 1:B:11.3**Proponents' Testimony:**

Noel Larrivee, Executive Director, Montana Council for Families, said the Council is a statewide organization that focuses on child abuse prevention and family support matters. He said he has been involved in child advocacy matters since 1978 and has been involved in over 300 cases. He spoke in support of the Partnership Project mandated by the 1993 legislature. He claimed that if funding was not approved for intervention in the early stages of the continuum of treatment, more money will be spent in the long run when attorneys, courts, and foster care services get involved.

Mary Alice Cook, Advocates for Montana's Children, spoke of the high, strong recommendation for the Partnership Project as outlined in the Blueprint for a Future Worthy of Montana's Children **EXHIBIT 2, 1-10-95.** She said the project develops a comprehensive continuum of services in partnership with community

organizations. The Advocates for Montana's Children back the concept of services designed to provide parents of at-risk families with the knowledge, skills and support they need to increase their capacity to nurture their children and provide a healthy environment.

Questions From Subcommittee Members and Responses:

SEN. CHUCK SWYSGOOD asked how much IV-A money the Department gets from the federal government and how many programs are funded by IV-A money. **Jack Ellery, Administrator, Management Support Services Division, DFS,** said the Department projects a total of \$1 million in IV-A services this FY, 50 % of which are general fund. **Mr. Hudson** indicated the \$500,000 federal IV-A grant funding could change dramatically. He said staff has been trained on how to identify where IV-A money can be used and "the chart on that is climbing." He also pointed out the difference of the IV-A account operated by the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services which is geared toward emergency assistance for eligible AFDC recipients.

SEN. SWYSGOOD asked where the child support enforcement money would have went if it was not used in the Department's refinancing activity. **Mr. Hudson** replied, "to offset foster care costs." **SEN. SWYSGOOD** questioned the Department's rationale in using child support enforcement funds as part of refinancing. He commented that refinancing efforts seem to be a creative way developed to come up with funding sources other than general fund for "all these projects." He asked what was being gained when child support enforcement funds that could be used to offset foster care costs are used for refinancing, when the Department requests additional general fund for foster care, or requests a supplemental to provide money in the same areas the Department took money away from. **Mr. Hudson** replied a great amount was administrative refinancing money the Department didn't have before. He said the largest amount was money the Department went out and found in administrative refinancing. He noted that in a discussion at the previous legislature, the point was brought up about the Department stealing prevention money to back up the disaster end of the program and as long as it continues to do so, more and more disasters will result. Thus, the Legislature through language in HB 2, directed the Department to recruit any money and use the funds for prevention efforts, rather than paying for overspending in residential treatment or foster care.

SEN. J.D. LYNCH directed his question to **Ms. Sample** and asked what percent of the Family Services Network budget is used for salaries. **Ms. Sample** replied approximately 70%. **SEN. LYNCH** asked if salaries paid to non-profit partnership groups were comparable to salaries paid to state employees. **Ms. Sample** said in comparison to the state pay scale, salaries are significantly lower.

SEN. JIM BURNETT asked if families voluntarily participate in the Partnership Program, or if they are forced to participate. **Mr. Hudson** said two populations are served: people who exhibit high risk of becoming part of the system at some point, and people who are referred to the Department. **Mr. Hudson** believes the program is truly a voluntary arrangement and he said, "the Department can't order people to enter in the Partnership Program." **SEN. BURNETT** asked to what degree does the Department consider family discipline, or enter into family lifestyles to micromanage a situation. **Mr. Hudson** said the Department follows policies by which the Department tries to carefully define when a person crosses the line between disciplining their child and abusing them. For example, if disfigurement to a child is caused, a determination is made that the child has been abused. **Mr. Hudson** said when substantiating abuse and neglect, the Department tries not to get involved in measuring the degree of how hard a parent can hit a child, or how much blood can be drawn. He said however, the Department has to draw the line and the line is this: "If you're striking your children hard enough to leave a mark, you're abusing your children."

REP. BEVERLY BARNHART directed her question to **Dr. Trankel** and asked if her study has resulted in any feedback for communities new to the program. **Dr. Trankel** said that at this point it has only been possible to conduct training on various aspects of the program. She indicated that it will be at least a year before she will receive any post-test assessments which will provide further data to pass along to the counties.

REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN asked how to get money to the workers to address immediate needs of the people served when other networks are working together to provide human services. **Mr. Hudson** said his advise would be to give the money directly to communities because they know who to serve and how badly services are needed.

REP. KASTEN asked if it was necessary to go through various organizations at county and state level. **Mr. Hudson** said that someone has to be accountable for how the funding is used.

SEN. LYNCH indicated that he frequently gets asked what responsibility people have when they witness public displays of possible child abuse. **Shirley Vincent Tiernan, Regional Administrator, DFS** said that in her opinion, hitting a child in public and leaving a mark for a period of time is inappropriate, however, physical discipline is not illegal in Montana. She said people who do not report suspected incidents of child abuse are liable for a misdemeanor, but common sense is key.

SEN. SWYSGOOD quoted an excerpt from 17-2-108 MCA, "funds derived from refinancing must be used to replace general fund, before general funds can be expended." He felt the Department was in violation of the code, and asked how the Department would address this issue, comply with the statute, and how programs would be affected. **Mr. Hudson** said that if the Department was required to spend all non-general fund money first, the Department wouldn't

be able to move the refinancing money to other programs. **SEN. SWYSGOOD** asked for further information during the executive session.

HEARING ON COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM

Tape No. 1:A:27.9

Director Hank Hudson, DFS, said the purpose of the program is to improve public safety and community security by providing resources to communities in order to serve high-risk conduct disorder youth. All programs developed under the Community Impact Program will balance the need for the public to be safe, the needs of victims for accountability and the needs of youth to develop meaningful skills for future success. Certain values incorporated in the program are to provide flexible money to the communities, get the right team together at the community level, and have them identify the best services and highest needs. He distributed information outlining services to be provided under the Community Impact Project. **EXHIBIT 4** He briefly discussed how an \$8 million program could create a continuum of services for a conduct disorder youth that are included in the four categories listed in the exhibit.

CHAIRMAN COBB asked if this program could be run through the partnership program, rather than starting a new program. **Mr. Hudson** didn't feel the Partnership Program was the appropriate program to address conduct disorder youth.

Tape No. 2:A:00.1

REP. BARNHART asked how kids will be placed in the community-based programs for services to be provided to high risk youth. **Mr. Hudson** said community-based services could be available to adjudicated youth or through voluntary placement.

Mr. Hudson then distributed a number of letters from regional probation offices describing the need for the Community Impact Project. **EXHIBIT 5**

Proponent's Testimony:

Robert Runkel, Director of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), said OPI strongly supports the Community Impact funding. He said funding for this project is conducive to OPI's highest priority, which is to control student behavior and provide safety in Montana's schools. OPI has been working with DFS to ensure coordination between the Department, communities and schools.

Dennis Taylor, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Justice, said he was appearing on behalf of Attorney General Joseph Mazurek. He said Attorney General Mazurek strongly supports the Community Impact Project and has spent the past two years working with communities around the state dealing with the issues of

juvenile justice and youth violence. He said the program "goes a long way in meeting serious deficiencies in our system" and urged the subcommittee for support of the Department's proposal. **Mr. Taylor** then spoke on a personal level, and said he was involved in youth issues for the past 25 years. He felt this program is what has been needed in the past and also asked for support of this proposal.

JoNell McFadden, Chairperson, State Family Services Advisory Council, spoke in support of the Community Impact Project. She said the needs of youth who are currently in the juvenile justice system go beyond existing community-based services. She indicated that high-risk youth are falling through the cracks in the present system because it was designed to care for seriously, emotionally disturbed youth. She said the Community Impact Program begins to address such needs as intense structure with natural consequences, specialized educational approaches, consistent behavioral interventions and positive peer environments.

Jan Shaw, Executive Director, Montana Youth Homes, said she is "flabbergasted" at the number of referrals Montana Youth Homes have received in the past year to place sexual offenders. She said many kids are in inpatient facilities, but are being decertified by Medicaid and caseworkers are looking for programs to place the youth. She said secure programs need to be developed in the community to address this population.

Candy Wimmer, Montana Board of Crime Control, said she was in support of the Community Impact Program. She reported the Montana Board of Crime Control administers money from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which is made available through a competitive grant process to communities, and this year the money is used specifically to treat conduct disorder or sex offender youth. She felt communities, if given an opportunity, are very creative and can address the needs of these youth. She urged the support of the subcommittee to fund the Community Impact Program.

Larry Fasbender, Great Falls Public School System, said since schools do not have funding to take care of high-risk conduct disorder youth, other children are affected and it creates a real problem as far as the school system is concerned. He felt the Community Impact Program was a small step in helping the schools and all people involved in the school system.

Howard Gipe, Flathead County Commissioner, said he sat on the Youth Advisory Council for five years and one of the major problems was that many great ideas arose, but communities lacked the funding to support them. He said this proposal was the right idea and would save money in the long run. He asked for the support of the subcommittee to fund the Community Impact Program.

Michael Keedy, Montana School Board Association, said he formerly sat on the bench for the Eleventh District Court in Flathead County. He has had experience with the justice system through juveniles and adults over the past 12 years. He felt schools, teachers and administrators have increasingly become "a dumping ground" for family problems that parents and other family members are unable or disinclined to deal with effectively. Not only are the problems serious, but they are reaching into a younger and younger student population. He asked the subcommittee to consider that this proposal would take pressure off the public schools, would better coordinate efforts between public schools and juvenile justice people, and return the opportunity to local communities to be innovative in dealing with and responding to unique problems and needs of troubled youth.

Eric Feaver, MEA, rose in support of the Community Impact Program and its funding.

Glenn McFarlane, DFS, Region III, read from his written testimony. **EXHIBIT 6**

Ry Soerenson, Chief Operating Officer, Yellowstone Treatment Centers, circulated a diagram indicating the perspective of Region III for service needs in community family and child crisis. **EXHIBIT 7** He said proper evaluation and assessment for service needs are critical in developing a continuum of service that reflects the needs of the child as opposed to using a continuum of service concept that is static and reflects only services that are available. He urged the subcommittee for favorable consideration of funding this proposal.

Bob Torres, Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, submitted a letter from **Joe Loos, The Casey Family Program.** **EXHIBIT 8** He spoke in strong support of the Community Impact Program as proposed by the Governor and DFS. He said the Association views this project as a necessary, logical development of the system of services already in place and not as a new program. He felt that approaching community problems with solutions offered by and for the local level is a common sense notion. Those who live in the affected community are the best ones to decide what their security priorities should be, given a set of general guidelines and safeguards from the state. He then asked the subcommittee to hear several youth testify who were kids labeled as "conduct disorder/youth sex offender."

Andy Hudack, President, Montana Sex Offender Treatment Association, said he represents a group of professionals who supervise and provide direct services to adult, adolescent, and youth sex offenders. He reported that approximately 125 juvenile sex offenders are in treatment and he emphasized that they are 13 to 18 year old offenders. Forty are in the 6 to 12 year age category and that population is rapidly growing. Only 4 out of 11 cities served by the Association have adolescent programs due to lack of funding. He said that 80% of adult sex offenders

start abusing as adolescents, but don't get picked up. He emphasized the need to help kids be successful. He said if this program was not funded, it would create less safe communities, increase the prison population and increase the number of victims.

Cheryl Ronish, Direct Service Provider for 6-12 year olds, profiled a traumatized five-year-old who was sexually abused and who is acting out her sexual abuse on other children in the community. She said the child does not qualify for home-based services and if the child is not serviced through community impact, it is possible she will need residential or inpatient care. She conveyed it is necessary to treat children who are so young.

Susan Anderson, Clinical Social Worker, talked about a child who is an example of "kids who fall through the cracks." She said that Medicaid doesn't cover the costs for an outpatient sex offender evaluation of an adolescent or the intensive treatment needed. She emphasized the need for additional funding for community services for kids who are at risk.

Kathy Hughes, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Shodair Hospital, Helena, gave a background on her education and experience and said she has been working with adolescent sex offenders in Montana for the past year. She said most of the behavior of sex offenders starts in early adolescence. She said several children volunteered to testify before the subcommittee who are sex offenders and have been sexually abused. The youth then introduced themselves, mentioned what had happened to them in their childhood, the offenses they have committed, and the number of their victims. **This portion of the tape has been erased due to CHAIRMAN COBB's direction. Approximately 25 minutes has been deleted. Please see February 2, 1995 minutes.**

Kelly Evans, Director of Great Divide Education Services, said he also serves as Chair of the Montana Behavioral Initiative Task Force. He said behavior problems exist in every size of school in southwestern Montana and schools welcome the opportunity to be a part of the Community Impact Project. He reiterated the need to emphasize early intervention treatment.

Ted Leckner, Director of Court Services, Thirteenth Judicial District, Billings, said he was also President of the Juvenile Probation Officers Association. He said probation officers are dealing with conduct disorder/sexual offender kids on a daily basis and are unable to find services for them because they don't meet categories. He strongly urged the subcommittee to fund this project.

Valerie Rasck, Director Spring Creek Center, Billings, testified that with funding, the Spring Creek Center could easily serve 36 kids. She reported the cost to serve a kid in a day treatment facility is roughly \$10,000 a year opposed to residential

treatment or more intensive kinds of services which can cost up to four times as much.

Eileen Morgan, School Psychologist, Montana Association of School Psychologists, said fifteen years ago she was hired to work with children who had severe behavior or emotional problems at the high school level and now, the picture is so much different. The problems she worked with at the high school level then are now at the elementary level and have increased in severity. She said this initiative will provide training for educators to do a better job in meeting the needs of today.

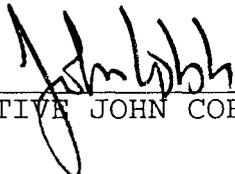
Rick Raft, High School Principal, Broadwater High School, Townsend, said he is also a member of the Montana Behavior Initiative (MBI). He said MBI is a grass roots organization that started with OPI to provide better training for educators to deal with students with severe behavioral problems. He said the schools would like to become proactive rather than reactive in this situation.

David Hemion, Mental Health Association of Montana, said he was also representing the Montana Association of Churches. He asked for support of the Community Impact Program.

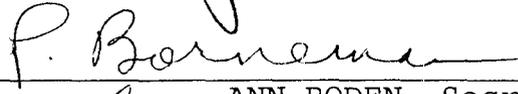
Further written testimony was provided in **EXHIBIT 9**, and with no questions from members of the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:40 a.m.



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COBB, Chairman



 ANN BODEN, Secretary

JC/ab

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-31-95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. John Cobb, Chairman	✓		
Rep. Beverly Barnhart	✓		
Rep. Betty Lou Kasten	✓		
Sen. Chuck Swysgood, Vice Chairman	✓		
Sen. J.D. Lynch	✓		
Sen. Jim Burnett	✓		

Doug, Lois

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-31-95
HB 2

1-31-95

**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE 54TH LEGISLATURE**

ON

THE PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

A PROGRAM OF

THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

The original of this document is stored at
the Historical Society at 225 North Roberts
Street, Helena, MT 59620-1201. The phone
number is 444-2694.



JANUARY 1995

TESTIMONY for Legislative Hearing on DFS
Partnership to Strengthen Families Project
Dr. Mary Trankel, DFS Evaluation Contractor

1-31-95
EXHIBIT # 2
DATE 1-31-95
HB 2

WHAT IS RIGOROUS EVALUATION?

- √ Combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods
The strengths of one are frequently the weaknesses of the other
- √ Process Review and Outcome Review
- √ Multiple Methods of Data Collection
 - 1) formalized assessment instruments (e.g., standardized measures of outcomes)
 - 2) structured staff assessments (behavioral observation rating forms)
 - 3) careful administrative record reviews (for process review and qualitative analysis of case record information)
 - 4) narrative data from interviews
- √ Finding or Developing Assessment Tools that meet standards of reliability and validity
- √ Training Staff in Procedures to Assure Reliability and Validity of Assessment Data
 - ⇒ Interrater Reliability Testing
 - ⇒ Pre-Tests and Post-Tests Administered by Different Staff Persons
 - ⇒ Use of Comparison or Control Groups
 - ⇒ Conducting Appropriate Statistical Tests before making claims of change
 - ⇒ Using assessment tools that have been clearly operationalized and tested for reliability and validity of the data being gathered.
e.g., asking a person whether they have been physically or sexually abused as a child vs. asking them specific questions regarding past experiences
- √ Measuring program success in a variety of ways, in order to gain a good understanding of what types of services produce what types of outcomes for what types of families; what length of time and what level of intensity must services be provided in order to produce specific outcomes, etc.

HOW WE HELPED COMMUNITIES PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE EVALUATION PLAN:

- √ Review literature on best practices (what prevention activities have been successful)
- √ What Assessment Tools have been used; what is the established reliability and validity of these tools
- √ Focus on REDUCING RISK FACTORS because we can't measure something that doesn't occur, and we know that certain combinations of risk factors are strongly correlated with probability of child abuse and neglect.
- √ Handouts (two):
 - ⇒ PSF Program Activities and Assessment Tools
 - ⇒ Assessment Tool Summary

PSF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES and ASSESSMENT TOOLS

STEP 1 - SCREENING: A *Referral Form* is used as an initial (Stage I) assessment tool to screen families with newborns, and families who have been referred to DFS, for potential risk factors.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Who Administers</u>	<u>Assessment Tool</u>	<u>When Administered</u>
intake risk screening	DHES staff at some sites	MIAMI or FOLLOW ME	birth of child
intake risk screening	Referral Agencies	PSF Referral Form	at agency referral
intake risk screening	PSF Staff	PSF Referral Form	for phone referrals
intake risk screening	DFS Staff	PSF Referral Form	at referral to PSF
decision on appropriateness of referral	Home Visitor/Supervisor	Family Tracking Form	as family status changes

STEP 2 - FAMILY ASSESSMENT (Outcome Review): In-depth *assessment tools* are used by PSF staff to obtain detailed information necessary for verification of risk factors (State II risk assessment tools); and development of a Family Service Plan in consultation with the participant family.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Who Administers</u>	<u>Assessment Tool</u>	<u>When Administered</u>
contact family face-to-face	Home Visitor	Referral Form	within 72 hrs of referral
have family sign release of info form	Home Visitor	Release of Info Form	at first contact w/family
have group attendees sign release form	Group Facilitator	Informed Consent Form	at 2nd group meeting
interview family/complete init. paperwork	Home Visitor	Demographic Intake Form	w/in 48 hrs of interview
pre-test family self-assessments	family w/Home Visitor	1) Family Life Survey; 2) Life Experiences Survey; 3) Basic needs/Stress factors Family Assmnt Form (opt) A Measure of How Families Are Doing (opt)	w/in 30 days if possible; w/in 60d/hard-to-reach
pre-test group member self-assessments	Group Facilitator	Family Life Srvy (ShtFrm)	2nd group meeting
pre-test family behavr/environmental assmnts	Home Visitor	Family Assmnt Form (opt)	w/in 3 home visits
pre/post-tests entered in database	PSF Staff or Evaluator	<i>Paradox</i> Database Files	ongoing/quarterly
family worker assigned	Supervisor	Service Plan Summary	when assmnt completed
tickler file established for follow-up	Home Visitor	locally designed process	
write individualized family support plan	family w/Home Visitor	locally designed process	
summarize support plan for data analysis	Home Visitor	Service Plan Summary	when assmnt completed
referrals made to DFS Protective Services	Home Visitor/Supervisor	DFS contact form	as necessary/high risk

STEP 3 - FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES: The *family support plan* includes, but is not limited to: identifying family strengths, helping families define the specific goals of intervention, showing the families how improvements can occur, helping families resolve or improve problems by such techniques as examining positive alternatives for negative behaviors, teaching ways to prevent child abuse and neglect and other family conflicts, and setting up resources and skills to maintain ongoing progress.

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Who Administers</u>	<u>Assessment Tool</u>	<u>When Administered</u>
submit progress reports	Home Visitor	Family Progress Report	quarterly
update tracking log	Home Visitor	Family Tracking Form	weekly
record community services referrals/uses	Home Visitor	Family Progress Report	quarterly
track types and length of services provided	Home Visitor	Log of Contacts & Services	ongoing
track group meetings and activities	Group Facilitator	Log of Support Group Actv	ongoing
<u>Initiate goal-directed tasks to assist the family in achieving the following outcomes:</u>			
learning appropriate parenting skills	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
strong parent-child bonding/attachment	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing

knowledge of child development	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
reducing burden of child care	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
alternatives to corporal punishment	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
anger management techniques	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
communications/parent-child bonding	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
assertiveness skills	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
skills to cope with stresses of parenting	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
budgeting skills	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
housekeeping/homemaking/org. skills	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
self-esteem	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
empowerment	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
use of appropriate community services	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
meeting basic living needs	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
social support systems	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
transportation to appointments	Family/Home Visitor	locally designed procedures	ongoing
social skills development in support group	Home Visitor	informal group notes	each group meeting
track qualitative changes in family functioning	Home Visitor	Family Progress Report & case notes	quarterly ongoing

STEP 4 - ONGOING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT (Process Review)

<u>Task Description</u>	<u>Who Administers</u>	<u>Assessment Tool</u>	<u>When Administered</u>
case progress conferences	Home Visitor/Supervisor	case notes	locally decided
case progress team meetings	project team members	case notes	locally decided
review & approve all service plans, progress reports, termination summaries	Supervisor	quality assurance plan	as forms completed
case reviews, program compliance, training, other program issues	local oversight committee	minutes of meetings & case notes	ongoing
accompany HV on 1 visit ea/first 3 families	Supervisor	case notes	w/in 2 mos. 1st referral
submit progress reports to supervisor	Home Visitor	Family Progress Report	at least quarterly
Home Visitor Performance Evaluation	Supervisor	performance evaluation	6 mos/yrly thereafter
conduct closure interview with family	different PSF staff person	case notes on interview	final family session
post-test self-assessment forms	family member(s)	Family Life Survey	yrly/final family session
		Life Experiences Survey	yrly/final family session
		Basic needs/Stress factors	yrly/final family session
		Family Assmnt Form (opt)	yrly/final family session
family satisfaction questionnaire	different PSF staff person	family satisfaction survey	final family session
submit family closure report	Home Visitor	Quarterly Progress Report	w/in 7 days of closure
		Family Tracking Form	w/in 7 days of closure
referral agency satisfaction questionnaire	Home Visitor	referral agency survey	yearly
technical assistance on evaluation	Evaluation Contractor	evaluation planning forms	during initial training & ongoing/as needed
		Site Evaluation Plan	during site start-up
technical assistance on training needs	Project Coordinator	Training Needs Survey	as needed
technical assistnc on proj implementation	Project Coordinator	informal contacts	quarterly
evaluation data collection	Home Visitor/Supervisor	all requested by Evaluator	ongoing/quarterly
data input into <i>Paradox</i> database files	Site Staff or Evaluator	<i>Paradox</i> database forms	quarterly/as requested
evaluation summary reports to sites & DFS	Evaluation Contractor	data analysis procedures	quarterly/as requested

**Partnership to Strengthen Families
EUREKA PROJECT**

Assessment Tool Summary

MEASURABLE OUTCOME	ASSESSMENT TOOLS	WHO Collects Data	PURPOSE	TIMELINES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community collaboration and continuum of services increased service coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey of community organizations survey of clients minutes of staff and oversight committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluator Evaluator Nurturing Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> process review process review process review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yearly yearly ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> length and intensity of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSF Log of Family Contacts and Services case record notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Support Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outcome review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> standardized family intake, screening, and risk assessment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PSF Referral Form PSF Demographic Intake Form PSF Family Life Survey PSF Life Experiences Survey PSF Basic Needs Survey PSF Release of Info Form 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Referral Agency Family Caregiver Family Caregiver Family Caregiver Family Caregiver Family Caregiver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> baseline status outcome review family risk profile family strengths family needs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> referral intake 3-6 w/in 2 weeks/30-60 days max for hard-to-engage families
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> formal assessment and case planning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Measure of How Families Are Doing Service Plan Summary Quarterly Family Progress Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Family Support Worker Family Support Worker Family Support Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pre-test/post-test baseline status and outcome review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> w/in 4-6 weeks of program entry; after 1 year (or at closeout) upon completion of family assessment quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased community support options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> program notes survey of community organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Coordinator Evaluator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> process review outcome review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ongoing yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> decrease in child abuse and neglect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> statistical analysis of DFS data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> baseline data outcome review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased access and appropriate utilization of social and health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Family Progress Report case notes Log of Family Contact & Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Support Worker Family Support Worker Family Support Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> outcome review outcome review outcome review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> quarterly ongoing ongoing

**Partnership to Strengthen Families
EUREKA PROJECT**

Assessment Tool Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » improved family self-sufficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » analysis of employment/income data » case notes of changes in client behaviors denoting increased empowerment » Family Progress Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Evaluator » Family Support Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » outcome review » outcome review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » yearly » ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » increase in children referred to DFS who can remain safely in homes / decrease in children who must be removed from homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » analysis of DFS data » Family Tracking Form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Evaluator » Family Support Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » outcome review » outcome review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » yearly » ongoing

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1-31-95
HB

PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES PROJECT

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES
REVISED APRIL 1994

The original of this document is stored at
the Historical Society at 225 North Roberts
Street, Helena, MT 59620-1201. The phone
number is 444-2694.

SUBMITTED BY:
KATE MRGUDIC
PROJECT COORDINATOR
P.O. BOX 8005
HELENA, MT 59604
406/444-6553

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1-31-95
HB _____

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

Services to be Provided

I. Community Partnership to Serve High Risk Youth:

This category will provide monies to serve identified youth in community-based group homes or school based day treatment programs. This category also provides monies to supplement community-based services with additional supervision in the form of electronic monitoring devices and/or tracking services. Communities may also choose to purchase alcohol and drug intervention services.

II. Community-based Sex Offender Interventions:

This category provides monies to select interventions appropriate to the needs of the community and the youth. These interventions may take place in group homes, outpatient treatment and/or the schools. Communities may choose any combination of supervision, education, treatment, intervention or support services.

III. Secure Care Treatment for High Risk Adjudicated Youth:

Category III will provide monies for the purchase of intervention services in secure environments for youth for whom traditional correctional services are inadequate to assure the safety of the community and the youth. The number to be served is based upon a survey of the DFS REgions and Pine Hills Schools.

IV. Additional Demand for Secure Care for High Risk Adjudicated Females

Category IV provides dollars to support the purchase of secure care for females should the need be identified.

DFS

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM
annual costs for FY 96 & 97

Lotus:\budget\cmtyimpct.

I. School - Community Partnership to serve high risk youth:

	# kids	# of days	cost per day	Amount
Group Home Costs/day treatment	40	365	104.00	1,518,400.00
Supervision	22	365	12.50	100,375.00
subtotal: cost for segment I.				1,618,775.00

II. Community based sex offender intervention:

	# kids	# of days	cost per day	Amount
Treatment costs	20	365	110.00	803,000.00
Education costs	20	260	35.00	182,000.00
subtotal: costs for segment II				985,000.00

III. Secure care treatment for high risk adjudicated youth:

	# kids	# of days	ave. daily cost	Amount
Treatment costs	15	365	205.00	1,122,375.00
subtotal: segment III				1,122,375.00

IV. Additional demand for high risk adjudicated females:

	# kids	# of days	ave. daily cost	Amount
Secure care	5	365	135.00	246,375.00
subtotal: segment IV				246,375.00

V. Administrative Costs:

Staffing/contract management			2.5 FTE	62,500.00
Evaluation			1.0 FTE	50,000.00
Training and communications				20,000.00
Subtotal: segment V				132,500.00

Total for all five segments 4,105,025.00

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 1-31-95

EASTERN YELLOWSTONE SPECIAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS:
Lockwood, Shepherd, Huntley Project, Hysham, Custer, Pioneer, Community, & Squirrel Creek

1932 Hwy. 87E, Route 2 • Billings, MT 59101 • (406) 252-4022 • FAX (406) 259-2502

January 4, 1994

Hank Hudson, Director
Department of Family Services
48 North Last Chance Gulch
P.O. Box 8005
Helena, MT 59604-8005

Dear Mr. Hudson:

'Just a brief note to thank you for your Community Impact Proposal. I have been rather verbal about the impact of the last legislature's actions on the schools, and I believe I may have sounded a bit critical during the teleconference you folks held on December 16. There is clearly no easy answer to the fix our society is in with so many troubled kids, but I truly appreciate your substantial acknowledgement of our difficulties in the home communities.

Our regional council of special education directors have been working in concert with our local interagency committee, and as Barb Stefanic recently wrote to you, we are delighted to have your support. We await the legislature's response to these proposals. Please feel free to contact us if you should need our assistance. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Leonard Orth

The original of this document is stored at the Historical Society at 225 North Roberts Street, Helena, MT 59620-1201. The phone number is 444-2694.

Region III Community Impact Proposal

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Glenn McFarlane. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning on behalf of a cooperative working group of public agencies and private providers in Region III. Our testimony today is in support of the Community Impact Grants and to present how the public and private sectors will work collaboratively in Region III to assure that Conduct Disordered and Sexual Offender Youth receive needed and appropriate services that are not presently funded.

At the present time the Director of DFS in Region III, the Director of the Mental Health Center in Region III, the Director of Pupil Services for School District 2, the Director of Youth Court Services for Yellowstone County and individuals providers have agreed in purpose and concept to a Case Management System that would meet the needs of the child and family for care and treatment.

Based on a complete evaluation and assessment, Youth Placement Committees, as proposed in HB 150 would determine a plan for each youth that targets specified treatment goals and coordinates services to assure a smoother transition through levels of care and treatment. Coordination and oversight will occur with the Regional DFS Advisory Council.

Referrals for services could be made by anyone, but we believe most referrals will be made by Schools, Juvenile Corrections, DFS and MRM. We have prepared for you a diagram of what services presently exist in Region III to serve Conduct Disordered and Sexual Offender Youth. Ry Sorensen will now explain our proposal for Case Managed Services.

We believe that our proposal will demonstrate a significant reduction in the number of inappropriate placements for these youth and a reduction in the lengths of stay in more expensive, more intensive out of home placements for care and treatment. As a group, in Region III, we are here today to promise that if granted the funds for our counties in Region III as allocated by DFS for the Community Impact Project we will provide the legislature and DFS detailed facts on the demographics of youth served, how and what services were provided for each youth and what were the outcomes for each youth. We believe these outcomes will

demonstrate the following in Region III for the coming biennium:

1. Reduction in number of and/or inappropriate placements at Pine Hills.
2. Reduced utilization of more intensive/more costly services.
3. Reduced growth of problems and disruptions in schools.
4. Fewer youth transitioning to adult services.
5. Reduced growth in need for Youth Court System to deal with these youth.
6. Less costly outcomes over the long term.
7. Safer and more supportive communities.

The families, schools and communities of Region III are deeply committed to meeting the needs of these youth who are presently falling through the cracks and not receiving appropriate and adequate services. Collectively we ask this committee's careful consideration of our proposal. With the funding as proposed in the Community Impact Project we can make a significant difference for these youth, their families and our communities. Thank you.

Region III Community Impact Proposal

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1-31-95
HB _____

Community, Family, Child - Crisis

Evaluation & Assessment

Service Needs

~~Corrections Funding~~

~~Treatment Funding~~



Outpatient Services

In-Home Services

Day Services

Foster Care Services

*****Above in a home; Below out of a home*****

Detention Services

Shelter Services

Group Home Services

Residential Treatment Services

Psychiatric Hospital Services

The Casey Family Program®

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 1-31-95
HB _____

January 27, 1995

Helena Division
800 North Benton
Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 443-4730

Missoula Office
800 South 3 West
Missoula, Montana 59801
(406) 543-3632

Representative John Cobb, Chair
Joint Sub-Committee on Health and Human Services
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Funding for the "Community Impact Project"

Dear Representative Cobb,

I am a Social Worker for The Casey Family Program, a private, non-profit, non-sectarian program providing long-term foster family care for youth. I do NOT represent The Casey Family Program. My perspective on the proposed Community Impact Project comes from my 25 years of work in the field of foster family care - both in my present position, which I have held for 6 years, and in my past experience in Child Protective Services with Montana SRS and DFS.

The concern over the cost of residential treatment for Montana's youth both within and out-of-state is quite understandable. Whether it is paid for by the foster care budget or Medicaid dollars or both, it does not take many youth in residential care to have a significant impact on the budget. The Casey Family Program struggles with this issue in its budget. Program wide we have close to 1500 youth in foster family care in 13 states. Here in Montana we have 76 youth in care. It is not at all unusual, given the significant losses our youth have faced before entering our program, that a percentage of them must be placed in residential treatment at some point before reaching adulthood. Sometimes the cost of such treatment is covered by the state that retains custody of the youth and sometimes not. When we are convinced that a youth's best interest can only be served by a period of residential care, and the state will not support the placement, we fund it.

Here in Montana, however, our greatest frustration has often been the lack of community resources to provide a continuum of care for youth. Community based resources can sometimes provide a level of treatment that will eliminate the need for residential care. Those services can also be used to return a youth from residential care to the community more

Representative John Cobb
January 30, 1995
Full Funding for the "Community Impact Project"
Page 2

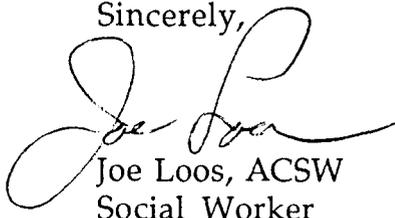
quickly. And, where the community does possess the therapeutic foster home and group home resources to care for emotionally damaged youth, schools also need support for additional staff to serve these youth.

Two of our youth are currently in residential care for Sexual Offender Treatment. While there is a clear need for them to be in residential care at this time, they will eventually return to the community. How soon they return to the community, and how safe the community will be from their potential for re-offense currently is being adversely affected by the lack of a "continuum of care" in the Helena community for adolescent sexual offenders. We have no out-patient sexual offender group for adolescents in Helena, because there is insufficient funding for such a group. There is no group home able to take sexual offenders to provide a transition for adolescents working their way back to the community. It is not unusual (as is the case with both of these youth) for youth returning from treatment to present some risk to other youth at school as well as special challenges to public school staff to help them re-integrate. There would need to be a close liaison between the school, the provider of on-going out-patient treatment for these youth, and any specialized group home or therapeutic foster family caring for these youth.

Compared to the State of Montana The Casey Family Program serves a relatively small population. What I hear from my colleagues in DFS and with the Youth Court, confirm that our frustrations with the lack of resources are small compared to theirs. Yet even having to watch one youth fall through the cracks because of the lack of appropriate community alternatives is an extremely discouraging experience. I urge you to support FULL funding for the Community Impact Project.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns. If you wish to contact me, my home phone is: 443-4768; my work phone is 443-4730.

Sincerely,



Joe Loos, ACSW
Social Worker

To Senator John Cobb ,

I bring to your attention Senator, the vital and most important issue facing family unity today. This, being the lack of sufficient family programs like the Parent Support Groups. I am not certain how much opportunity you have to " Come Home" as one would say, and touch base with the reality of daily family hardships. If you are or have been able to research or touch base with "Home", I need say no more.

But, if you have been unable to check in, let me share some very crucial and depressing information with you, I work with children and families seven days a week, eight hours a day, and I myself, am a single parent with five children of my own, one terminally ill and one with a severe learning disability and my youngest has a mild case of the same disease that my oldest is terminally ill with, and so needless to say, I am only one of thousands of parents looking for support, guidance and counseling above all, we are looking for HOPE! The very same hope that we held upmost in our hearts when we supported you. HOPE, the kind that would keep families united and going on no matter the hardships, hope that keeps our faith in our Lord strong. I must encourage you to please Senator, to push for the vote to supply the FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK PROGRAMS alive and functioning for families in Montana.

You see, Senator, I attend a FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK that hears me cry, hurt, plea for help and above all, a group that allows me the opportunity to release all my emotions in a positive way and allows me at the same time to mentally carry on day to day. I know that a group as such can not solve my problems but they certainly support and console and empower me to take charge of my situations and face them instead of containing them within me until I reach a mentally dangerous zone.

Let me, if I may, List issues facing families and parents and children today:

Divorce, separation, violence, death, terminal illness, lesbianism and the young girls in our junior highs that are being preyed upon and victimized by the lesbian adults, drugs, rape, runaways, dropouts, incest, abuse and neglect, depression, domestic violence, crime, the law, no place to put juvenile offenders, very limited resources for parents whom are struggling with rebellious and or violent children, rehab programs for the child and the entire family, the cycle of "Abusers", racism, social pressures, financial stability, poverty, health issues, and the list goes on, and on.

Please I invite you to have coffee with me some day, and we take "check in" on the "SILENT" concerns families have and their need for more FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORKS such as the one I attend. I salute the good job you are doing now, but please look into supporting this program and many more that may come up as possibilities. You see, Senator, I would love to sit down with you and share my life, and I am sure you would care and feel the pain of a mother who hurts every time her children hurt, who believes in discipline and responsibility and can get no hope for or from the juvenile system, because there is no help as of now. I blame not the system, but the society that took control from the system. I could share so much with you in person, unfortunately, I can not be there, so I beg, please support funding for FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK GROUPS.

SINCERELY,

G. S. 1-30-95

①

Dear Legislator,

I am writing concerning your future support for the Family Support Network Program founded by Barbara Sample in Billings, Montana.

This program is dedicated to help families of any denomination and, with their support provide stepping blocks to keep families together as a strong healthy family unit.

Give This program a sincere working chance. This society with its pressures and problems needs Family Support Network working for families in need.

Ask yourself how much money a year goes to the foster care program?

How many people wanted help but didn't know where to get it?

How many children are completely taken from their biological parents because they needed more help?

They needed help the state government would not do could not offer. They needed Family Support network.

I not only support this program, I strongly believe expansion of this program would be beneficial.

②

EXHIBIT 89
DATE 1-31-95

There is a crisis in our society and the Family Support Network is based resolving family problems by providing all necessary support. Their help makes better families, better citizens, and a healthier society. This program saves tax dollars by resolving problems.

Again, please take the time to find out how much money goes to the foster care program every year. Find out what really happens to children. Find out how much is truly wasted. Find out how we can stop this waste on the foster care programs, broken families, and unresolved family problems.

③

which leads to a problem
society and Legislator
more headaches for you
and our country as a
whole.

I support the Family
Support Network Program
and believe the concept
can be expanded to
resolve problems within
our society and eliminate
wasted tax dollars.

Expansion of Program:

- 1) Having their own
psychologist on staff.
- 2) Hiring a director
capable of facilitating the
expansion of the network
- 3) Funds available for
hiring training professionals
as needed.

④

EXHIBIT 9

DATE 1-31-95

- 4) Having a fund raiser/sales manager on staff to direct the program to eventually have the program pay for itself. To advertise on television and other media mechanisms.
- 5) Program to be implemented nationwide.

This program is a program President Clinton and the United States Congress should hear more about.

Thank-You for your support of the Family Support Network Program. It has helped me and others.

Sincerely; Dawn Hastings
mother of 2 boys

January 27, 1995

Dear Legislator:

I'm a teen mother of two children. One of my children is in foster care right now. DFS let me keep my new baby. I've had a lot of different agencies in my life lately. It's hard to be a good mother to my baby when everyone is watching me so closely. I'm scared I might make a mistake sometimes.

I met my Home Visitor last week. She told me that she thought I could be a good mother to my baby. She said she would help me in any way she could to make sure I keep my baby and maybe even get my other boy back. It was good to know that someone else thinks I can be a good mom. I hope that this program continues because I think it will help a lot of people.

Sincerely,

Destiny Montoya

I am the father of the baby and the step father to the youngest ~~kid~~ and I respect that someone is finally helping. Instead of condemning.

Charles Smith II

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1-31-95

Dear Mr Cobb;

I am writing this letter so that you will be aware of the good work being done by Ron Hildebrand and his employees, the Partnership to ~~the~~ Strengthen Families. His help has allowed my family to look hopefully upon the future because we feel that we have someone who is in our corner. ~~As~~ We ~~do~~ know we have a resource when a crisis arrives, as they ~~are~~ always do.

This program also offers resources such as parenting classes, which help to improve our parenting skills, support groups, emergency resources and all important emotional support.

Please do not cut funding for this program. These dollars can be considered well spent because they directly effect the quality of life for me and ~~my~~ family in a positive manner, the end result being a stronger family, more well ~~and~~ rounded and responsible individuals who are better able to ~~contribute~~ contribute.

to society in a positive manner.
The dollars spent on this
program will pay off in the long
run in ~~stronger~~ stronger families,
more responsible and community
minded individuals who pay
their taxes and your wages.

~~Thank~~ Thank you,

Sincerely

Michael W. Rockwell

1/27/94

Dear Mr Cobb,

I am writing this letter in regards to the Partnership to Strengthen Families.

I think if you cut funding to this program you would be making a huge mistake.

In my life I have had alot of bad things happen, some of which I did to myself. Unfortunately my kids have always been the ones to pay the price for my mistakes.

With the "Partnership" I am finding resources that are invaluable and will probably keep me from making these same mistakes again. My children, like everyone else's children, deserve to have resources available to them and their parents that can help the family meet the needs concerning them.

"Partnership" provides these resources through parents support groups and parenting classes. Through these groups we are learning valuable parenting skills that will help not only me & my family but many other families that are needing some where to go to get these skills. The emotional support

is also very important because sometimes without someone to understand you it's hard to get motivated to do the things you need to do.

As a tax-paying voter I am urging you to reconsider this program and its importance in the community.

I cannot see where cutting funding to this program is to anyone's benefit!

Thank you,

A concerned voter in Billings

Margo Lemke

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1-31-95

Jan. 27, 1995

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this today in regards to the Family Support Network. We are currently working with this agency and they have been very helpful with some situations that have recently arisen. Our worker is no more than a phone call away. She has helped us get to the bottom of our AFDC case, purchase bus passes, with transportation and several other areas. The greatest thing our worker has done for us is arrange for and supervise visits with our children.

Since the children were taken at the beginning of the month, our worker has been in contact with us daily to see if there is anything she can do to help. She has been a wonderful advocate for us while working with DFS. If it wasn't for the Family Support Network and our worker, we would not have made it through our rough times.

Sincerely -

Mr. + Mrs. E. White

Jan. 26, 1995

Mr. Cobb:

I am very concerned that you are considering cutting the funding for the Partnership Project.

Currently I am working as a home visitor and provide support for parents and children experiencing personal challenges. One of the families I visit has had access to many different resources but not until now have they been engaged. The transformation that has come over this family as they are learning to empower themselves has been an awesome sight.

I would be very sad to know that this family would not have had this support and that future families would not have access to it.

Sincerely,

Ray E. Boyer

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1-31-95

Dear Mr. Cobb

I am really concerned that you are cutting funding to the Partnership to Strengthen Families. This organization has been helping me cope with my grand son.

My grand son has serious emotional problems and I have been trying on my own to help him. Recently I have been in touch with Family Support Network and they have given my support and the help I need to help my grand son.

I know that you are trying to save money and I agree with that. Some things just seem more important and I really feel all the people being helped by this project are very important.

Sincerely,
Sharon D. Berger

Dear Mr. Cobb

My family and I have been struggling to get by for a long time. I have been getting by and doing a lot of things on my own. My kids are getting bigger and the demands are a lot greater. I can't keep up with all the pressure and stress of my kids becoming older.

Now that I have finally found a source of advice and support I hear you are going to cut the funding. The partnership to strengthen families has helped me find ways to help my kids and myself.

I need these people and the help they give me. I'm sure there must be some other way to save funds for the state. I can't believe you would cut a fine program like this one. Please reconsider and change your mind or at least take another look at the situation.

Sincerely
Peppie Wagyu

DATE 1-31-95

COMMITTEE ON Human Svcs & Aging

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: Community Impact Proj.

< ■ > PLEASE PRINT < ■ >

Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
SU, Teeman	DFS			
Jan Shaw	Mt Youth Homes			
Kathleen Harrington	Therapist/Counselor			
Eileen F Morgan	Mont. Assoc of School Psych	HB 2	✓	
Susan Anderson	Social worker		✓	
Ann-Neil Magallon	DFS State ^{Family} Advisory _{council}		✓	
Jean McDonald	MHAM		✓	
Mary Alice Cook	advoc for MHS children		✓	
Bob Jarvis	MT. Chap - NASW		✓	
ANDY HUDAK	MT. Sex offender TX		-	
Cheryl Roman	Soc. Work - Pr. Prac.			
Andree Larson	MT Advocacy		✓	
Larry Jasbender	MJPS		✓	
Leon Francis	SAM		✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DATE 1-31-95

COMMITTEE ON Human Svcs & Aging

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: Community Impact Proj.

< ■ > PLEASE PRINT < ■ >

Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
Candy Shimmer	MOCC		✓	
Dennis M. Taylor	AG/justice		✓	
Eric Slavet	MEA		✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DATE 11/3/95

COMMITTEE ON Human Services & Aging

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: HB-2 Community Impact Fund

< ■ >

PLEASE PRINT

< ■ >

Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
Rick Rafter	MRI-SAM			
Sylvia Danforth	DEAD			
Bill Shumway	DEAD			
Kelly Swann	Mont. Behav. Initiative Great Divide Ecol. Services		✓	
Judy Garrity	DES			
Howard W. Gipe	Flathead Commission		✓	
Kate Magdich	MT Council		✓	
Barbara Sample	Family Support		✓	
Val Rasch	Spring Creek		✓	
Ron Hildebrand	Family Support Network			
MARY ELLERD	MTFOA		✓	
Robert Runkel	OPI		✓	
Neal Larrison	MT Council for Families		✓	
ANDY HUDAK	MT. Sex Off. & Tr. Assn		✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY