

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN JOHN COBB, on February 8, 1995, at  
8:05 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  
Connie Huckins, 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: Developmental Disabilities Planning &  
Advisory Council (DDPAC)/Developmental  
Disabilities.  
Executive Action: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & REHABILITATIVE  
SERVICES: Welfare Reform; Family  
Assistance.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON WELFARE REFORM

Tape No. 1:A:1.0

**Lois Steinbeck** discussed and distributed the comparison of the original to revised executive welfare reform request. (**EXHIBIT 1**). She explained that the Department is asking for (\$1,113,475) general fund less than in the original executive request.

**SEN. J.D. LYNCH** asked if the revised comparison was accepted, would the Legislature be passing down another unfunded mandate to the local government. **Ms. Steinbeck** replied that this was not a mandate.

**CHAIRMAN JOHN COBB** asked what the Department would do if they did not receive the private donations that help fund the program for welfare reform. **Dr. Peter Blouke, Director**, responded that the Department anticipated that it would receive the money because it is advantageous to the community.

**Ms. Steinbeck** reported the (\$211,221) was incorrectly added twice in the revised comparison, and that the actual savings would be only about (\$714,000) general fund.

**SEN. CHUCK SWYSGOOD** commented that there was a substantial increase in AFDC caseload growth in FY97. **Dr. Blouke** said that was due to the elimination of deprivation.

**Motion/Vote:** **CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT THE LFA REVISED EXECUTIVE WELFARE REFORM REQUEST (EXHIBIT 1).** Motion CARRIED 5-1 with **SEN. LYNCH** voting no.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION ON FAMILY ASSISTANCE DIVISION

**BUDGET ITEM Personal Services; Inflation/Deflation; Fixed Costs:**  
Tape No. 1:A:32.9

**Discussion:** **Bob Mullen, Fiscal Officer**, said the amounts listed under the present law for personal services are to fund changes in the current pay plan and are critical to welfare reform.

**Motion/Vote:** **CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT \$110,993 IN FY96 AND \$118,816 IN FY97 FOR PERSONAL SERVICES; \$54,925 IN FY96 AND \$97,996 IN FY97 FOR INFLATION/DEFLATION; AND (\$10,747) IN FY96 AND (\$9,893) IN FY97 FOR FIXED COSTS.** Motion CARRIED unanimously.

**Proponent's Testimony:** **REPRESENTATIVE BILL CAREY, HD67**, said that he is also Director of the Montana Food Bank. He said he feels Montana has a very effective program to distribute food all around the state of Montana through the Montana Food Bank Network and its partnership with SRS.

He said it was very important to keep the capability to transport food within the state. He felt the partnership should be promoted. He said that without approval for the semi-tractor equipment, the Montana Food Bank Network would have to go out of state for donations and without the capability of distributing food it would greatly devastate Montanans. He urged the subcommittee to keep the program alive.

**BUDGET ITEM Montana Employment & Training System (METS):**  
Tape No. 1:A:34.3

**Discussion:** **CHAIRMAN COBB** asked the Department how the Legislature would know if this system was any good. **Dr. Blouke**

replied in the same way that evaluation would be done for The Economic Assistance Management System (TEAMS) and the System for Enforcement and Recovery of Child Support (SEARCHS). **CHAIRMAN COBB** asked when the system would be up and running. **Penny Robbe, Administrative Coordinator, Family Assistance Division**, replied by the end of 1996.

No motion was made.

**BUDGET ITEM Reengineering Study:**

**Tape No. 1:A:41.2**

**Discussion:** **Ms. Robbe** said the targeted goal was to reach 150,000 hours of time saved in local county offices to devote specifically to welfare reform activities.

**Motion:** **CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT \$100,000, 50 PERCENT GENERAL FUNDS, 50 PERCENT FEDERAL FUNDS EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR THE REENGINEERING STUDY.**

**Discussion:** **SEN. LYNCH** spoke against the motion because he felt too much money was being put into Helena and not toward the people who needed the help.

**Vote:** **Motion FAILED 3-3 with SEN. SWYSGOOD, SEN. LYNCH and SEN. BURNETT voting no.**

**BUDGET ITEM Forms Redesign/Policy Manual:**

**Tape No. 1:A:43.2**

**Discussion:** **Ms. Robbe** explained that every four years the Department has to undergo revision of its major forms per federal statute.

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. KASTEN MOVED TO ACCEPT \$57,500, 50 PERCENT GENERAL FUNDS, 50 PERCENT FEDERAL FUNDS EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR FORMS REDESIGN/POLICY MANUAL. Motion CARRIED unanimously.**

**BUDGET ITEM Montana Legal Services Contracts:**

**Tape No. 1:A:45.5**

**Discussion:** **CHAIRMAN COBB** asked if this contract would be used for both former General Assistance (GA) recipients plus AFDC recipients or solely AFDC recipients. **Ms. Robbe** said the focus was specifically on AFDC recipients as part of the welfare reform effort. **CHAIRMAN COBB** asked how former the GA population would be aided. **Ms. Robbe** replied that counties along with Legal Services would aide the former GA population. She said the Legal Services Contract was done as one contract with Legal Services Association and it funded services provided to eligible people in the 12 state assumed counties.

SEN. LYNCH asked if the attorneys were paid an hourly rate. Ms. Robbe explained that the contract does require a reimbursement rate based on the service provided. Neil Haite, Montana Legal Services, said the rate is \$30.00 per hour, which was below costs.

CHAIRMAN COBB asked what the necessary additional amount would be to cover the former the GA population. Mr. Haite said that the counties were handling both GA and AFDC in 12 counties at \$100,000.

SEN. LYNCH asked for a breakdown of the clients served by area.

Motion/vote: CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO INCREASE THE MONTANA LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT ALLOTMENT TO \$70,000 EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM AND TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN THE CONTRACT THAT FORMER GENERAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH AFDC RECIPIENTS APPLYING FOR SSI. Motion FAILED 3-3 with SEN. BURNETT, REP. KASTEN, and SEN. SWYSGOOD voting no.

BUDGET ITEM Montana Legal Services Contract:

Tape No. 1:A:58.2

Motion/Vote: CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT \$19,910 EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR MONTANA LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

BUDGET ITEM Other Contract Changes:

Tape No. 1:A:58.3

Motion/Vote: CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT (\$75,090) IN FY96 AND (\$85,089) IN FY97 FOR OTHER CONTRACT CHANGES. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

BUDGET ITEM Rent:

Tape No. 1:A:59.1

Discussion: Ms. Steinbeck indicated that most of the increase in rent was due to reallocation of rent from fixed costs.

Motion/Vote: CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT \$30,263 IN FY96 AND \$31,018 IN FY97 FOR RENT. Motion FAILED 3-3 with SEN. SWYSGOOD, SEN. BURNETT, and SEN. LYNCH voting no.

BUDGET ITEM Equipment:

Tape No. 1:A:60.9

Discussion: Mr. Mullen distributed the attached replacement equipment request. (EXHIBIT 2).

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** contended he had a problem funding the semi-tractor/trailer. He asserted that not only was the state delivering commodity foods to in-state food banks, but also to out-of-state reservations. He felt that this in no way benefited the state, but rather the USDA because costs were cheaper for the state delivery out-of-state compared to commercial carrier rates. **Jim Nolan, Chief, Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau**, agreed that the reason the Department was involved in the trucking business was because of a request by the USDA. He said the USDA had trouble finding reliable contractors who could deliver on a timely basis within its budget. He responded that the benefits in delivering commodities were receipt of 100 percent federal funds for out-of-state travel which allowed the Department to provide free delivery to in-state sites.

**Motion/Vote:** CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO ACCEPT ALL EQUIPMENT LISTED ON EXHIBIT 2 EXCLUDING THE SEMI-TRACTOR/TRAILER AND WELFARE REFORM PCs. Motion CARRIED 5-1 with REP. KASTEN voting no.

**Motion:** CHAIRMAN COBB MOVED TO APPROVE \$95,000 FEDERAL FUNDING IN FY96 FOR THE SEMI-TRACTOR/TRAILER REPLACEMENT.

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** informed the subcommittee that if funding for the tractor/trailer was approved the Department would still have two other tractor/trailers. He then asked the Department the age of the equipment and the size of the trailer.

**REP. BEVERLY BARNHART** commented that her main concern was that if funding was not approved, whether the Food Bank Network would continue to receive deliveries.

**Mr. Nolan** replied that the Department has one 1987 plus one new semi-tractor/trailer. He also said that if the Department did not receive the new tractor, the Montana Food Bank Network along with other agencies in Montana would be penalized. He stated the tractor/trailers were bought by the Indian program, which is the basis for all other existence of commodity food programs. **Mr. Nolan** said the Department would not be allowed to deliver food to the food bank networks if the Indian trucks bought by the federal government are tied up solely for the Indian program. He proclaimed that the Department would lose one-third of its capability to deliver commodities to the food bank networks if funding was not approved for the tractor/trailer.

**Substitute Motion:** SEN. LYNCH MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO PURCHASE THE SEMI-TRACTOR/TRAILER WITH GENERAL FUND MONIES RATHER THAN WITH FEDERAL FUNDING AND TO INCLUDE THE STIPULATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT DELIVER COMMODITIES OUT-OF-STATE.

**Discussion:** **SEN. SWYSGOOD** spoke against the substitute motion because he felt that the federal government would not take the trucks away from the state. He felt the Department had enough equipment to serve the Indian reservations in the state, plus the food banks.

SEN. LYNCH stressed that he needed assurance that the Department could provide delivery of commodities to food banks in the state.

**Vote:** Motion FAILED 2-4 with SEN. LYNCH and REP. BARNHART voting yes.

**Vote:** Original motion CARRIED 4-2 with SEN. SWYSGOOD and SEN. BURNETT voting no.

HEARING ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION

Tape No. 1:B:22.9

Mike Hanshaw, Administrator, Developmental Disabilities Division, gave a brief overview of the Division's duties and responsibilities. (EXHIBIT 3)

Proponents' Testimony:

Joe Roberts, representing the Systems Advocacy Group for Developmental Disabilities, provided order of the testimony and asked those testifying not to exceed 3-5 minutes in respect for the subcommittee's time. He then introduced the first witness.

Stewart Brownloe, Helena Citizen, said he was 21 years old and was employed by Safeway with the help of his job coaches. He stated he wanted to live independently and asked the subcommittee to help him do so.

Collette Brownloe, Mother of Stewart Brownloe, stated that without the programs for the developmentally disabled or mentally handicapped her son and others wouldn't be where they are now. She urged the continued support and expansion of supported employment programs for the disabled.

Carol Ann Briggs, Billings Citizen, read from her written testimony. (EXHIBIT 4).

Pat Dimzoff, Billings Citizen, read from her written testimony. (EXHIBIT 5).

Kathy Schenck, Job Coach for Job Connection, and Laurena Briggs, Billings Citizen. Ms. Schenck testified that she was Ms. Briggs' job coach for four years. She stated that she has witnessed the support of employers and the positive influence on workers' functioning levels who are involved in the support employment programs. She expressed her frustration as a job coach regarding the waiting list for potential participants. Ms. Schenck emotionally conveyed that Job Connection's clients earned \$275,451 in the past year, which was more than the budget for supported employment.

E. V., Helena Citizen (no recorded verification of last name), read from his written testimony. (EXHIBIT 6).

**Russell Brewer, Helena Citizen**, testified that he recently was placed back into the community after being institutionalized for 26 years. He stated that many who were with him at the institution did not like being there and didn't feel they were treated very well. He stated he was currently employed and that he was very grateful to be residing as a citizen again.

**Doug Evans, Employer, McDonalds Helena/Butte**, stated that seven employees were working at McDonalds through the support of employment program. He commended the work of the job coaches, and said they provided experience the employer did not have. He reported that in the past ten years the wages for the people involved in the support of employment program were \$389,000.

**Lowell Bartles**, testified that the pay scale for the overseers of the physically and mentally challenged was extremely low, and the expectation of them was high. He asked for the subcommittee's support of the overseers by approval of a provider increase.

**Debbie Sewart and Wade Sewart, Polson Citizens. Ms. Sewart** discussed the help she and her son received through CDC Home Services. She stated that CDC helped lift the burden of medical expenses as well as helped to maintain functionality of her family. She stated that **Wade and the whole Sewart family** was proof that early intervention can produce miracles and in the end save tax payer dollars.

**REP. JOHN JOHNSON, HD2**, testified that he was in support of community services functions which aided in the reduction of the waiting list for services.

**Vicki Armitage and her son Ricky McKnight, Bozeman Citizens. Ms. Armitage** read from her written testimony. (EXHIBIT 7).

2:A:5.

**Bill Woon, Director of Finance, Helena Industries**, read from his written testimony. (EXHIBIT 8).

**Jenn Kearney, WestMont**, stated that she was a Rehabilitation Aide who enjoyed her job, but due to her low wage she qualified for welfare benefits. She urged support of a provider rate increase.

**Michaelynn Hawk, Southeastern Montana Citizen**, stated that the DEAP Program provided numerous handicapped services not covered by medicaid for her son **Wacey Hawk** who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She stated the importance of the need for sufficient respite money for family support services. She emphasized the strain that would be caused to her and other families if funding were to be cut.

**Rob Tallon, Executive Director of Reach, Inc.** read from his written testimony. (EXHIBIT 9).

**Irene Neilson, Missoula Citizen,** spoke on behalf of her daughter Michelle. She was told by her doctor that Michelle wouldn't live past the age of 2, but Michelle was now 17. She related her connection with the struggle other families face. She said that if children were given a chance, they could prove very valuable in society. She stressed parents are children's best advocates but were unable to do it alone. She urged support for desperately needed expanded programs and asked for help in working together to ensure that developmentally disabled children did not grow into adults to become a burden to society, but to become an asset.

**Randy Leckner, Executive Director Counter Point, Livingston,** stated that staff at Counter Point feel degraded because of the low wages. He read testimony from **Nancy Nicholson (EXHIBIT 10)**.

**Payton Terry, Glasgow Businessman,** stated that he was a 35-year volunteer working to improve the quality of life and situations of disabled people and that he was also a father of a developmentally disabled child. He said that Montana's community-based services were some of the very finest in the U.S. He reported the imbalance of wages for services resulted in an 80% employee turnover in many programs. He implored the subcommittee to support realistic increases for direct care provider wages. He stated the importance of DDPAC's contribution to the overall success of community based programs and asked for approval of federal grant monies for DDPAC.

**Keith Clingingsmith, Glendive Citizen,** stated that his son, **Hunter,** was enrolled in DEAP Services and the family benefited from invaluable information, services, and early intervention provided by DEAP. He said that one of the most important valuable aspects of the services was the family support specialist's skills and work. He requested continuation of funding for community-based services that were vital for developmentally disabled people and their families.

**Kieran Lutey, Billings Citizen,** read from her written testimony. **(EXHIBIT 11)**.

**Brian Roat, Mayor, Red Lodge,** read from his written testimony. **(EXHIBIT 12)**.

**Roxanne Stromm, Great Falls Citizen,** said that she is a mother of a 10 year old autistic son. She stated that the people at Quality Life Concepts gave her the support she needed. She indicated that she became a single parent and became dependent on SSI and Medicaid assistance for 4 years until she remarried. She claimed that since remarrying, her son lost his benefits and was unable to get the help he needed and she was concerned for his future. She expressed her frustration regarding the waiting list for specialized family care and thought the requirement for a child to either relocate out of state, or for a child to die



before someone needing specialized family care could get help was wrong.

**SEN. LYNCH** stated that he and **SEN. SWYSGOOD** had to leave the hearing to attend another meeting. He said he felt that there was a misconception among the witnesses in thanking the subcommittee for the opportunity to testify. He pointed out that it was their right to testify. He stated that the subcommittee members were not anointed big shots, but rather hired elected employees of the people and thanked the witnesses for their participation.

**Brody Moll, Executive Director, Mission Mountain Enterprises,** talked about unfunded mandates and how his service delivery system was having to respond when it was not receiving proper funding increases to do so. He outlined federal and state requirements as well as costs incurred to provide services. He stated that it was hard to continue to provide the quality and quantity of services to consumers when faced with more and more mandates.

**Linda Robinson, Northern Gateway employee, Shelby,** informed the subcommittee of the personal sacrifices direct care providers make to meet the needs of the developmentally disabled citizens of Montana. She indicated that she was unable to support her family on the wages she earned without state assistance. She urged the subcommittee to consider the financial difficulties of direct care providers and the risk factors involved to disabled Montanans when qualified staff don't apply for positions where the wage cannot support them or their families.

**Florence Massey, Billings Citizen** said that she is the mother of **Patty**, who is 36 years old and developmentally disabled. She expressed her gratitude for the services her daughter has received in order to help her reach the goals she has attained. She testified that **Patty** is now living independently and is working and paying taxes just like everyone else. She urged the subcommittee to take advantage of the special federal spending authority requested by the Division, to support an 8% provider rate increase rather than a 1.5% increase, and also to accept federal funds for DDPAC. She then spoke on behalf of the parents who have DD children still living at home and don't receive services of any kind. She stated that no monies have been allocated for additional community services in quite some time and this problem needed to be addressed. She stated that the parents were getting older and were concerned about their children's lives if they were left behind to care solely for themselves.

**Andree Larose, staff attorney, Montana Advocacy Program,** urged the support of the budget proposal. She reiterated the desperate need to impact the waiting list. She stated that the Advocacy Program received calls from concerned parents whose children were graduating from high school that had received quality special

education only to face an uncertain future and to regress in skills and education previously attained. She also emphasized that 70 individuals were identified as having been inappropriately placed in MDC and Eastmont and she stressed their need for community services. She stated that the current budget proposal would provide services for 18 of the 70 individuals and urged the support of the proposal. She informed the members of the subcommittee that if Eastmont did not close, 52 other individuals were constitutionally entitled to be free from being institutionalized and deserving of community service.

**Questions From Subcommittee Members and Responses:**

**CHAIRMAN COBB** asked **Ms. Larose** to revisit the numbers of individuals, which she did. **Mike Hanshew** then explained that the Division had a present law base adjustment that would reduce the population of Montana Developmental Center by 18. **CHAIRMAN COBB** questioned the number of individuals at Eastmont that needed community-based services. **Mr. Hanshew** explained that there was a new proposal in the budget request as well as HB 65 that would close Eastmont Human Service Center in this biennium. He stated that there were between 25-30 candidates for community services. He noted that there were additional people at MDC who were also identified as community service candidates. He said that the remainder of people not ready for community service would move to MDC. He indicated that the net effect between the proposals for the base adjustment and closure of Eastmont, would result in 66 people moving out into the community.

**Ms. Larose** wrapped up her testimony by urging support for the provider rate increase of 8%.

**Proponent's Testimony:**

**Marie Amundson, Program Manager, Farm in the Dell** talked about staff wages and how the wages affect employees and their families. She stated that the employees felt like they were a typical group home and their stories didn't differ from others throughout the state. She asked for support of the budget rate increase.

**Gloria Scott, Billings Citizen**, said that she has worked with the developmentally disabled for the past 24 years and was employed by Residential Support Services. She asked for the subcommittee's support and help in providing adequate funding for group home providers in order to operate efficiently and pay their employees a livable wage.

**John Barragato, Group Home Manager, WestMont**, provided written testimony. (EXHIBIT 13).

**Vonnie Koenig, Kalispell Citizen**, stated that she is the mother of a son who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and was involved with developmental disabilities for at least 34 years. She

conveyed the importance of how Montana has come such a long way in terms of the services provided by working together. She commented that there was a lot more than state and federal money that supported the programs. She said it was also important to recognize that corporations fund raise and provide money as well. She stated that the goal of enabling the quality of life needed to be kept in mind and that it was a must that the people taking care of those disabled were adequately funded.

**Othilia Schultz, Parent**, provided written testimony. (EXHIBIT 14).

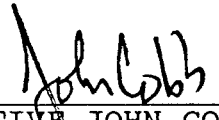
**Questions from Subcommittee Members and Responses:**

**REP. BEVERLY BARNHART** said that she was touched by the low wages that people were getting. She asked if the provider rate increase in the budget would allow for increased staff wages. **CHAIRMAN COBB** said that no, the provider rate increase was not the same. **Mr. Hanshew** said that only twice in the past there has been separate appropriations directly for staff salaries. He stated the importance of the issue, and said the dilemma with giving staff a raise, was that either all fixed costs needed to be paid first and usually ate up all increased funding, or additional requirements placed by state and federal government needed to be attended to first, thus leaving no excess to pass onto staff. **REP. BARNHART** asked if any comparison data was available reflecting the difference between salaries for heads of non-profit organizations versus direct service providers. **Mr. Hanshew** said that there was no data available. He said in most cases it was an issue of somebody who was running a corporation that had a budget between \$500,000 and \$1 million and was probably paid in the range of the high \$20,000 to mid \$30,000. He said if the responsibilities they had were looked at and were to be put on the state pay scale they would make a much more substantial amount. He commented that he didn't know anybody that was getting rich in this business.

**CHAIRMAN COBB** asked if the Division had a list of the number of individuals who were not receiving any services. **Mr. Hanshew** said that approximately 400 eligible individuals are waiting for services. He then closed by explaining the process for removal from the waiting list once an opening became available.

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 2-8-95

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	✓		

DATE 2-8-95  
 HB \_\_\_\_\_

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO REVISED EXECUTIVE WELFARE REFORM REQUEST

Program/Funding	← Fiscal 1996 →		← Fiscal 1997 →		Revised Over (Under)	
	Original Request Gen. Fund	Revised Request Total Gen. Fund	Original Request Gen. Fund	Revised Request Total Gen. Fund	Original Gen. Fund	Total
<u>Family Assistance Program</u>						
Administrative Costs	\$306,866	\$306,866	\$724,675	\$724,675	\$0	\$0
Equipment	2,300	4,600	2,300	0	(4,600)	(9,200)
AFDC Caseload Growth	256,859	902,542	258,875	409,335	104,723	423,674
Child Care	136,170	450,000	682,000	363,992	(311,342)	(952,504)
JOBS Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	1,679,424
Sub-Total Assist. Payments	\$702,195	\$2,130,874	\$1,667,850	\$1,498,002	(\$211,219)	\$1,141,394
<u>County Administration</u>						
Non-Assumed Counties	\$0	\$13,366	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Assumed Counties	11,546	23,092	53,461	53,461	(1)	(1)
Sub-Total County Admin.	\$11,546	\$36,458	\$53,461	\$53,461	(\$1)	(\$1)
<u>Operations and Technology Division</u>						
TEAMS FM Contract	\$90,000	\$180,000	\$92,700	\$92,700	\$0	\$0
Computer Processing Costs	18,416	66,968	59,317	59,317	(0)	0
Data Network Connections	3,672	7,344	12,096	12,096	0	0
Sub-Total Ops. and Tech.	\$112,088	\$254,312	\$164,113	\$164,113	(\$0)	\$0
Child Support Enforcement	\$184,900	\$543,820	\$437,536	\$437,539	(\$0)	\$0
Sub-Total Expenditure Increases	\$1,010,729	\$2,965,464	\$2,322,960	\$2,153,115	(\$211,221)	\$1,141,394
<u>Medical Assistance</u>						
Benefit Reductions	(\$175,484)	(\$579,887)	(\$821,839)	(\$749,420)	\$83,979	\$1,021,199
General Fund Revenue from Child Support Enforcement Collections	\$0	\$11,746	\$0	\$595,309	\$607,055	\$607,055
Grand Total Executive Request*	\$1,845,974	\$5,351,041	\$3,824,081	\$4,152,119	(\$1,113,475)	\$654,534

\*Total includes increases in benefit reductions and deposit of child support enforcement revenue to general fund as reductions to general fund and total expenditures. So these items show as reductions to the original executive proposal.

EXHIBIT 2  
 DATE 2-8-95  
 HB \_\_\_\_\_

### Program 01 Replacement Equipment Request

29-Apr-94

1997 Biennial EPP Detail

Bureau	Item	Staff	Replacement Schedule	Cost Each	FY96		FY97		FY96		FY97		FY96 Total	FY97 Total
					Quantity	Quantity	Gen Fund	State Spec	Gen Fund	State Spec	Gen Fund	State Spec		
Policy	PCs	7.00	3 years	2000	3	3	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	
Self-Suff	PCs	7.25	3 years	2000	3	3	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	
Admin/Clerical	PCs	6.25	3 years	2000	3	3	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	
	Laser Printer		4 years	2000	1	1	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	
	Notebook PC		4 years	3000	0	1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	
	Printer		3 years	250	0	1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$125	\$250	\$250	
Field Services	PCs	5.00	3 years	2000	2	2	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	
	Laser Printer		4 years	2000	1	0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	
	Printer		3 years	250	0	3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$375	\$750	\$750	
IHSB	PCs	13.00	3 years	2000	4	4	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	
	Laser Printer		4 years	2000	1	0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	
	Semi Tractor/Trailer		5 years	95000	1	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,000	\$95,000	
Welfare Reform	PCs	4.00	3 years	2000	2	2	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	
<b>Total</b>					21	23	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	

### Program 06 Equipment Purchase Request

29-Apr-94

1997 Biennial EPP Detail

Bureau	Item	Staff	Replacement Schedule	Cost Each	FY96		FY97		FY96		FY97		FY96 Total	FY97 Total
					Quantity	Quantity	Gen Fund	State Spec	Gen Fund	State Spec	Gen Fund	State Spec		
Assumed Cos.	PCs		4 years	\$2,000	6	5	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	
	Laser Printer		4 years	\$2,000	5	6	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	
	Office Equip			\$727	11	11	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	
<b>Total</b>					22	22	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	

### FAD Equipment Replacement and Purchase Request

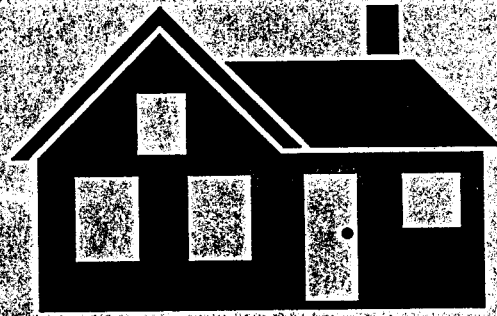
29-Apr-94

1997 Biennial EPP Detail

Bureau	Item	Staff	Replacement Schedule	Cost Each	FY96		FY97		FY96		FY97		FY96 Total	FY97 Total
					Quantity	Quantity	Gen Fund	State Spec	Gen Fund	State Spec	Gen Fund	State Spec		
<b>Total Agency Request</b>					22	22	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	
												\$35,000	\$70,000	

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 2-8-95  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

1995

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.



Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

My name is Carol Ann Briggs. I live in Billings. I am the mother of Laurena, a 24 year old Down Syndrome. Laurena is a very capable, semi-independent young lady. She does live at home with my husband and I. She is a very special person who has probably taught us more than we could ever teach her.

Laurena graduated from High School in 1991. We were very fortunate that she had a vocational teacher who found her a job at the Happy Diner, trained her for the job and also how to take the MET to and from work. He did a great job. We had a big concern as parents of what would happen with her job when she graduated. That is when we found out about Job Connections. Laurena was given a job coach, who took over when she graduated. Her job coach, Kathy, checks on her job performance, makes helpful suggestions and sees that things go well between Laurena's employer and Laurena. We are very grateful to have Kathy as a Job Coach. As a parent, I would not know how to do the things the job coach does.

We also know we can go to Kathy and others at Job Connections with any concerns we as parents may have. I'm also aware of the number of students there who graduate and do not have the support of a job coach. One job coach can only take care of so many clients. There seems to be a need for many more job coaches. What happens to the ones who do not have this support?

My husband and I do wonder if there will be a place for Laurena to go when we are no longer here. Right now there are not enough housing arrangements. Laurena is very capable of taking care of herself but needs some supervision on her decisions, especially medical and financial needs. This is a big concern of many parents who want the best for their child. We need people to help us. Your decisions are very important to us and our children. We appreciate all the services in the past and need them to continue for us and many others.

Thank-you.

PAUSE            \_ TAKE A DEEP BREATH

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Pat Dimzoff. I live in Billings.

I work at The Happy Diner, a small family owned restaurant in Billings. We employ two developmentally disabled girls. These girls fill a vital place in the business. Both of the girls were brought to our business by the Job Connection people.

I watched them train Laurena Briggs from the very beginning. Her job coach, Kathy Schenck came in and learned the job for herself and then she spent many hours training Laurena. As a result of this job, Laurena has a good self worth besides being very useful in her position. Kathy's job did not end with the first hours of training, but Kathy checks regularly on Laurena's progress and she addresses any problems that we might have. Not only does she deal with any problems but she is there to give her support and guidance along the way.

Todd Gorman works with our other girl and he has quite a challenge to keep her job oriented. This lady was not raised in a home, but was in Boulder for many years. She has posed many more problems on the job site, so the job

coach has to monitor her more closely and provide more support for us as employers and her as a client in order to keep her working.

I have attended several of their boss appreciation dinners. I never fail to look over their clients with the diverse disabilities and think to myself what an important roll these job coaches play for so many people - boss and clients alike. I admire the work of the job coach because it takes lots of skill on their part to figure what will work best for each client. At these dinners they have always showed a video that includes an individual picture of each client as well as pictures of different functions that they have sponsored. The look of excitement that is on each face when they see their picture and the picture of their place of employment makes me realize how important their job and their self worth because of their employment.

The developmentaly disabled fill a vital place in the business world, but it would be next to impossible to hire them without the watchful, helpful and encouraging people at the Job Connection. I understand there are many people on a waiting list desiring the Job Connection's help. I urge this committee to support funding for these programs so that people can be meaningfully employed.

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 2-8-95  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS E. V., AND I AM AUTISTIC. I LIVE IN MY OWN APARTMENT AND I LOVE LIVING BY MYSELF. I WORK AT NIGHT CLEANING AN OFFICE BUILDING. I AM A SUPER CLEANER. I MAKE \$5.25 AN HOUR, AND I PAY TAXES. DURING THE DAY I WATCH TELEVISION, GO GROCERY SHOPPING, DO MY LAUNDRY, CLEAN MY APARTMENT, PAY MY BILLS, AND COOK IN MY MICROWAVE. MY FAVORITE SUPPERS ARE HAMBURGER HELPER AND SLOPPY JOES. AFTER WORK I WATCH THE NEWS AND AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS. MY FAVORITE MOVIE IS "FIELD OF DREAMS." ON WEEKENDS I WORK AT McDONALD'S, GO ROLLERSKATING, GO TO MOVIES, AND OUT TO SUPPER. I AM MAKING FRIENDS AND BEING GOOD COMPANY. SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME. I TAKE A NUMBERS CLASS AND AM LEARNING TO WORK ON THE COMPUTER. I WANT TO LEARN TYPING. I AM HAPPY AND LOVE MY LIFE. I WANT TO THANK THE COMMITTEE AND THE STATE FOR SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM. I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LIVE ON MY OWN WITHOUT IT. THANK YOU.

My name is Vicki Armitage and this is my son Ricky McKnight. We are from Bozeman and have come today to show our support for Family Outreach's request for increased funding for their Supported Living Program. This program is designed to provide housing and skilled care for individuals with disabilities. If I could have a designed a program that would meet my son's needs, it would closely resemble the Supported Living Program.

Since graduating from High School last June, Ricky has been living at home. There is limited placement available for him and no openings in Bozeman. Our choices are to have him live at home or send him to live in a different part of the state. This is only an option if there is an opening for him and currently there are none.

I have worked very hard to establish a support system for Ricky in Bozeman. He participates in horsebackriding, downhill skiing, rafting, and swimming programs through Eagle Mount. He also is on a bowling league and in an evening Bible Study. He is a very social person and has established many strong friendships over the past 14 years and has a special girlfriend. If we were to place him in another part of the state, he probably would not be able to participate in these activities and would have to try to establish new friendships. Family Outreach's Support Living is designed to create independent living situations so individuals can remain in their community with their friends and families.

Recently, I had to quit my job because the agency providing care for Ricky cut his hours from 8 hours a day to 5 hours a day. The reason for the cut was that they felt that for 3 hours a day the care attendant was there only for supervision. Supervision is not covered by Medicaid. My employer would not let me work only 4 hours a day so I was forced to quit. In order for us to meet our financial obligations, I need to work full time. My only choices are try to work hours when someone else is home to care for Ricky or pay someone to come in to stay with Ricky. The cost of care ranges from \$5.00/hr to \$11.00/hr. So for 3 hours a day I am basically working for no wages.

If we could find an appropriate living situation for Ricky, then we all could get on with our lives. The cost of the Supported Living Program is much less than that of an institution and it provides individuals with a high quality of life which every parent wishes for their child.

Vicki Armitage and  
Ricky McKnight  
5555 Gooch Hill Rd  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Legislative Testimony  
February 8, 1995

Chairman Cobb, Committee Members, for the record my name is Bill Woon. I am testifying in support of a base rate increase for services provided by independent human service organizations contracting with the State of Montana. Currently, I am employed by Helena Industries and serve as the Director of Finance. I have served in this capacity for the past six and one-half years. I hold degrees in both Education and Accounting and I am a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to my employment in human services, I served in various capacities in both the "For Profit" and "Not for Profit" environment. This experience has given me the opportunity to practice the different operating philosophies of each type of organization. The reason I am giving you a history of my experiences is the importance of understanding the business philosophies of human service organizations.

Service providers in Montana are driven by a combination of both economic and human service philosophies. The products we produce are services provided to Montanans with disabilities. Although the value of these services to the consumer, and the need for these services, has increased significantly over the past six years, our ability to meet the demand is diminishing rapidly as a result of limited funding by the State. The primary objective of the provider is to offer quality services, and not the impact a decision will have on the financial statements. However, the reality is funding has not kept pace with rising costs, and the quality and quantity of services are at risk. Revenues, or rates, have not been based on costs, but rather on available funding appropriated by the State. This philosophy has driven service provider rates to a critically low level. Using 1989 as the base

year, provider rates have increased 19.4% while the cost of doing business has increased 28.3%. This increase in the cost of doing business is based on information provided by approximately 75% of the Developmental Disability and Vocational Rehabilitation Organizations in the State, while the provider rate increase is cited from the LFA study on provider rate adjustment methodologies presented to this committee earlier in the session. The major factor resulting in the increased costs is category 1, or personnel service costs. Two specific items have had the largest impact on the cost increases. Over the past six years, workers compensation rates for service providers have increased 259% while health insurance premiums have increased 36%. With category 1 costs representing approximately 80% of service provider budgets, you can see the impact of these increases. These two costs alone have consumed nearly all of the rate adjustments over the past six years, leaving very little funding available to maintain the most critical resource providers have, their staff. Again, using 1989 as the base year, the Consumer Price Index for Urban All City, as stated in the LFA study, has increased by 22.3% while the average organization has only increased wages by 12.4%. The result of this is the average employee of human service organizations in the State of Montana has lost 9.9% of their purchasing power over the past six years. More important is the fact that service providers are now experiencing great difficulty attracting and maintaining quality entry level staff members. The bottom line is the staff determine the quality and level of service, and these people can make more money with less responsibility working outside human services.

Montana has developed a delivery system for human services that we can be very proud of. This delivery system has evolved over several years



through cooperation between the providers and the State. However, for the past six years, the State's investment in these services has eroded to the point where resources are being depleted to cover the operating costs. Human services is an investment, an investment in human lives. By investing funding and resources in the lives of Montanans with disabilities, we are offering individuals the opportunity to become productive, tax paying members of their community. If we can't increase funding to meet costs, the investment, the entire delivery system, will be at risk. Providers can not survive operating at a deficit. Nor can the human service system and the welfare of the consumers survive if we deplete our most valuable resource, the staff.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify. Please give careful consideration to an 8% rate increase. This increase will allow service provider organizations the ability to cover current operating costs while maintain the staff required to make a quality difference in an individual's life. We are very appreciative of the Governor's recognition of Human Service Providers by including a 1.5% increase in his budget. However, 1.5% will not heal the wounds these organizations have experienced over the past to six years.

NOTES FOR LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

EXHIBIT 9  
DATE 2-8-95  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rob Tallon, I live in Bozeman MT and I am the Executive Director of Reach, Inc, a non-profit organization that works with people with disabilities. I have a master's degree in Psychology and 19 years experience helping people with disabilities here in Montana. I came here today to tell you why providers such as Reach need more than the 1.5% increase per year proposed by Governor Racicot.

Human service agencies are dependent on the people that we hire. The people that work with our clients directly determine the quality of care that those clients receive. Since 70-80% of the budgets of provider organizations are devoted to staff salaries and benefits, rate increases are directly tied to salary increases for our staff. I am here today to tell you that those people, in many cases, do not make a living wage. I have six examples for you that will point out what I am talking about.

In our business, the newest services offered usually have the best reimbursement rates. The newest service at Reach was begun two years ago and is a medically intensive group home. This is the best funded, best staffed component that we currently operate. Right now, that service has two positions that we have been unable to fill for the last three months. Either nobody applies because of the rate of pay or the people that do apply are not acceptable to our standards. Over the last three months our supervisors have been working nights and weekend shifts to cover the vacancies. This is not just a problem in Bozeman, it is also a problem in many other cities that operate group homes.

My second example is that we pay \$5.35/hour for the people that work the night shift in that same intensive group home. These people are doing personal care through the evening as well as cleaning and cooking food for the next day. Bozeman Deaconess Hospital hires people with the same educational and skill requirements for their night shifts and they do similar jobs. They pay \$8.98/hour or \$3.63/hour more for the same work.

A third example I have for you is a Supported Living Aide. These staff help support clients residentially who are working in the community and earn \$7.00/hour, while Weekend Aides earn \$5.35/hour. Three of their clients currently work at the federal building in Bozeman on a janitorial crew earning \$8.31/hour or \$1.31/hour more than the Supported Living staff, and almost \$3/hour more than our weekend people earn. Let me say that again. The clients make \$3/hour more than the staff that support them. Even the shift supervisor at our intensive group home does not earn as much money as some of our clients, earning only \$7.49/hour.

A fourth example comes from right here in Helena on the sign of a Pizza ~~place~~<sup>business</sup>. They're looking for people to take pizza orders over the phone and they pay \$6.15/hour. This is above most entry wages for direct care positions at Reach, and as Mr. Hanshew testified earlier, this is \$.72/hour more than the statewide average salary for residential services.

My fifth example is an informal survey that I've conducted in Bozeman regarding comparable jobs in Montana such as institutions, nursing homes and hospitals. These statistics show that our staff are underpaid on an average of 30%.

My last example is turnover. You've all heard before that the turnover in this field is high. The average length of stay in a direct contact position is less than 12 months. I have studied the issue of turnover in these services for 15 years. An average length of stay under 12 months is very disruptive to a service system based on consistency. I also believe that the major variable effecting this turnover rate is salaries.

Our costs across the board for operating are up 10-12%. We are losing ground compared to the consumer price index. We have positions that are unfilled for three months and more. We have comparable positions in our own community paying \$3.68/hour more. We have clients that earn \$3/hour more than our direct-line staff. The 1.5% increase proposed by the Governor's office is insufficient to keep the doors open to private non-profit organizations like Reach. While the consumer price index may only be going up by 3% next year, the rate increase you grant us must take into account the fact that our base is currently inadequate. In order to make up ground so that we can continue to hire decent people to work with our clients, an ~~eight percent~~ <sup>eight percent</sup> provider rate increase is necessary. Unlike the University system that is raising tuition by 15% in order to raise salaries, we cannot raise rates, but rely on you for budget increases. Thank you for your time and attention.

EXHIBIT 9  
DATE 2-8-95  
I

EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 2-8-95  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mister Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nancy Nicholson and I live in Livingston Montana. Please except this as my written Testimony in support of a significant rate increase for the DD Division. My absence in testifying in person is do to the embarrassment I feel when discussing the subject of receiving State Aide.

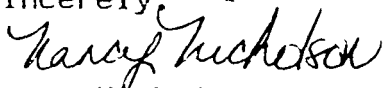
I am a single parent raising 2 wonderful daughters age 10 and 14. I have worked for a Community based provider serving persons with Developmental Disabilities for over 7 years. I am a supervisor in one of the work areas at the Day Program. I enjoy my job very much and care a great deal for the people I serve. As the cost of raising a family had continued to rise, much out of sorts compared to the small and if any raises I've received the past several years. I found our family financially strapped not able to give to my daughters what they need. For many months I contemplated the terrible thought of seeking State Aide. For me this was a very degrading thought for someone of my up bringing. As my family continued to struggle and our situation continuing to worsen. I felt I had no alternative but to lower my standards and apply for food stamps. This situation was very devastating to my self-esteem along with the self-esteem of my children, who choose to no longer go shopping with me for fear someone they know will see them.

I have qualified for \$122.00 worth of Food Stamps per month which would compare to about a 10% wage increase per month. This increase is more than I have received from my State Funded employer in the past 5 years - total. An interesting fact is that I was told that if I earned \$300.00 a year less I would qualify for Medicaid.

I have a good employer, one of the largest in our community. I consider myself a professional and feeling this it was very difficult for me to take the avenue of State Aide, let alone present my case before this committee. Quite frankly it angered me but I thought of my situation and others who may also be experiencing a similar situation. I wonder, would it not be more advantageous to the state to fund their programs more appropriately there by reducing the numbers of people like me receiving our raises through State Aide? I personally would rather receive an adequate wage for working then lowering myself esteem and dignity the way I have in order to care for my family. I truly believe most Montanans would agree!

Your sincere and genuine concern in positively addressing an adequate rate increase for your State funded programs will be greatly appreciated by my family.

Sincerely,



Nancy Nicholson

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Kieran Lutey and I live in Billings. I want to speak with you today regarding the benefits and importance of child and family services and also of expansion in adult services. I have been involved in the d.d. system for the past 11 years.

I have a daughter, Melissa, who is 19 years old and who has mental retardation. Due to her limited language skills and my limited knowledge of her disability, her <sup>aggressive</sup> behaviors became much more severe <sup>and</sup> unmanageable as she became older. So much so that the safety of others became a very important issue in our home as well as in the community. I remember crying myself to sleep night after night, wanting to help her, but not knowing how or what to do.

Then, 11 years ago, I returned to my native state of Montana, as a single parent with Melissa and my 2 younger children.

A friend referred me to Family OutReach, a child and family service provider here in Helena. My family support specialist provided me with knowledge of developmental information, behavior management techniques, my rights as a parent in the educational process, ways to teach Melissa basic skills, and community resources I could access.

Most importantly, she gave me encouragement, strength and confidence in myself as a parent and HOPE that I could help my child. I gained so much from this organization that I began thinking that I, too, would like to help other families. Give them that HOPE that families with children with disabilities desperately need. Karla gave me the encouragement and support to move my family to Billings, return to college, obtain a degree and become a family support specialist.

In Billings, I became involved with S.T.E. another child and family service provider. My new family support specialist picked up and continued to encourage and support my family.

For the past three years, I have worked for S.T.E.P. as a family support Specialist and Transition Specialist. I work very hard to empower and guide my families with whatever needs they have. As a Transition Specialist, I facilitate families move from child and family services to adult services. I strive to provide my families with as many community resources as possible.

Recently, three co-workers and myself

3

spearheaded and formed a Task Force to look at ways to utilize funding in the most cost effective way possible in child and adult services. We will continue to meet on a monthly basis to provide the utmost quality of service to our families.

As for Melissa, my vision of the future for her is to meet her ongoing needs through Supported living. With expansion in this area, she can continue to develop her skills in her local community supported and surrounded by her family.

Thank you for the past support of all of these developmental disability programs, and I ask for your continued support.

Without these programs, I could not have maintained Melissa in our home.

For myself, my family and esp. for Melissa again Thank you.



2/8/95

Human services appropriations committee -  
ERS Auditorium -

Honorable Chairman & Committee members -

My name is Brian Root.

I am a member of the Board of Regional Services for the Disabled, Billings, which administers group homes and workshops in Billings, Hardin, Westminster & Red Lodge.

Prior to the inception of community based programs for the disabled, Boulder and Warm Springs were the State's answer to their care and welfare. As a member of the staff of the State Fire Marshal, I inspected these facilities twice a year for 6 years with interim visits between inspections. I personally know what life was like for those living in the institutions and for those who took care of them. I have been acquainted and involved with the clients of the group homes in Red Lodge from the time they came to town. I feel very, very good about the way our fellow humans are being nurtured, taught, accepted in society and being given a measure of self esteem that the institutions could never begin to do.

The State was wise beyond words to initiate and to maintain <sup>funding for</sup> programs such as Regional Services. The clients and I do sincerely appreciate what has been done for their benefit.

The money the State appropriates for Community Care programs is much less per client ~~that~~ than would be needed if the client were in a State institution.

We in the field of community programs have been feeling the increasing pressure of financial shortfalls in the operation of these programs — Such as the increase of State workmen's Camp premiums from \$2K to \$90K per year. The attached letter from our executive director explains a bit more about Regional Services operation:

We are in need of an 8% increase in funding over last year just to catch up, and funding should then at least be increased in step with the CPI.

The Salary of employees should keep up with the CPI, but if we don't get such funding, how can we compensate our people? I am very concerned with our inability to attract and retain quality and qualified staff people because of inability to provide proper compensation for a difficult and demanding job.

As the mayor of Red Lodge I am proud of the way our program operates in our Community. I am frequently in the group homes and workshop in Red Lodge and personally know many of the clients and would be proud to have any of you

If community care <sup>operators</sup> programs are not able to continue their present programs, who will then care for the people that we can't? The answer to that can only be "Back to the State". The prospect of that gives me chills because no one should have to regress back to institutionalized living.

We are willing and able to continue and to expand our programs, and we can do it better and with less expense than the State can.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak to you -

Brian Row

BRIAN ROW

Red Lodge, MT

# -----INTEGRATION, INCLUSION, & EMPOWERMENT

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fiscal year 1993-1994 marks twenty years since Regional Services for South, Central, and Eastern Montana, Inc. has been incorporated. The agency was established as a day program called the Avocational Center in Billings in 1973 through a grant written by Terri O'Fallon. Twenty years later, the organization has grown from six individuals at the Avocational Center to 147 individuals being served by 80 regular staff in four different communities--Billings, Hardin, Red Lodge, and Lewistown. There are now four work programs, one senior day program, four group homes, one transitional living program, and three independent living programs.

Last year we saw a continuation of that growth. There was a 4% increase in the number of persons served by Regional Services last year--from 142 to 147. Twelve people left our services last year, and we had fourteen new admissions. We also saw an increase in our funding base. Through the Supplemental Waiver program of the federal government, we were able to provide one full-time and 2 part-time additional staff for an intensive individual in one of our group homes. Through the OBRA program, we were able to add an additional part-time staff to serve an additional person in Lewistown. Red Lodge has been able to access funds through the Vocational Rehabilitative Division, enabling us to support more people in community employment.

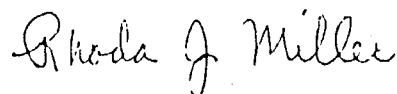
Despite a 38% staff turnover rate last year, dedicated staff continue to improve the quality of life for individuals served by Regional Services. Vocational services have been expanded and opportunities for inclusion in the community have increased for people with disabilities. Our commitment can also be confirmed in our attainment of 3-year accreditation with the Council on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities in June of this year.

Although our primary source of income is obtained through a contract with the State, we have found that over the last few years, the minimal increases have not been able to keep up with the rising costs of inflation. Our worker's compensation rates alone have increased from \$24,000/year to \$90,000/year. Therefore, we are going to have to look more and more to community support; marketing, and fund raising to help us maintain our quality programs.

Grants of \$30,000 this last year enabled us to purchase items for individuals or programs that we would not have been able to purchase otherwise--computer software, computers, physical therapy equipment, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, clothing for individuals, recreational equipment, and furniture are just some of the new acquisitions. We also received a \$80,000 grant from the State to assist us in replacing our group home in Hardin.

Staff, family members, and friends grieved about the loss of several people in our programs this last year. Several of them had been at Regional Services since its beginning in 1974 and were like family to us. We will miss Tom Adams, Doris Kamppinen, Willo Obenauer, and Mark Williams.

I invite you to read the following report for a review of Regional Services' commitment to quality services for people with disabilities.



Rhoda J. Miller, Executive Director

EXHIBIT 13  
DATE 2-8-95  
HB \_\_\_\_\_

To: Representative John Cobb  
Chairman, Human Services Sub-committee  
Capitol Station,  
Helena, Mt. 59620-1706

From: John Barragato  
P.O. Box 464  
Boulder, Mt.  
59632

As a Group Home Manager for a community based developmental disabilities service provider in Helena I really feel its necessary to provide you with some information on "provider rate increases". In the past "provider rate increases" have allowed little if any money to trickie down as wage enhancement. The largest percentage of these rate increases is used to meet the increasing costs of **Workers Compensation 189% increase from 1991 through 1995, Health Insurance 94.6% increase from 1991 through 1995.** I won't continue to list the day to day increases in the cost of providing services to those with disabilities, but **wages** in this same time frame have increased only **3.5%**, the entry level wage is \$5.20 per hour. During this same time period the disparity between community based service providers and State Institutions seems to be increasing.

*John Barragato*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VISITORS REGISTER

Human Services & Aging

SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE 2-8-95

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
Doyle Ewell 1003 4th Ave No Glasgow MT	Mill River Inc	X	
Linda Nelson 2525 Colonial - Helena MT	West Mont H&A	X	
JENN KEARNEY 991 <del>W</del> Phillips Ln #10 Helena MT	WEST MONT	X	
Marie Amundson 1408 Chateau Helena MT	West Mont	X	
Brook Mall 370 Main St. SW Boz. MT	Missionalth. Ent 1/150	X	
Robin Herman PO Box 526 Helena	DBPAC	X	
Rick Thompson 12411 CAEN Helena	Ni-Low Home Programs	X	
Dayton Perry Box 391 GLASGOW	Volunteer ND PAC	X	
Sylvia Dainforth	DEAP	X	
Keith Chojingpint	DEAP	X	
Jack Chambers	Opportunity Res.-Msk	X	
Mike Massey	President / Support Serv	X	
Nancy Goodwin	RSS	X	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HR:1993

wp:visbcom.man

CS-14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VISITORS REGISTER

Human Services & Aging

SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE 2-8-95

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
Ardis Stockton	Residential Support	✓	
John Johnson, Rep. P.O. Box 759, Missoula	HD-2	✓	
Karen Brockway	Eastern Montana Ind.	✓	
Eric Vogel - Atlas Building 15 Mackay, Helena	himself	✓	
Russell Brewer Stewart Haros, Helena	—	✓	
Tootsie Welker 614 State Helena		✓	
Pamela Littlewolf	DEAP	✓	
Rayanne Strom	Quality Life Concepts	✓	
Ed Mehler	himself	✓	
Michael Hawk	DEAP	✓	
Vicki Armitage & Ricky McKnight 5555 Gooch Hill Rd Bozeman, MT	Children graduating w/o SERVICES	✓	
Zara French STEP, Bozeman	STEP	✓	
John	AWARE Inc	✓	

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
Bill Wood Helena, MT	Helena Industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kieran Lutey Billings, Mont	S.T.E.P.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Kellogg Helena MT	West Mont Hsb.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jean Morgan Helena, MT	West Mont Hsb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laverne mnoem East Helena, MT	West Mont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colton Evichle Helena, MT	West Mont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Barragato Boulder, MT	WEST MONT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Wols Helena, MT	Westmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florine Massey Billings, MT	DDPAC - Supported Employment Parent - Consumer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helen Peterson Billings	Region III DD Council Parent RSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orhelis L. Schulz	Region IV DD Council Parent Anaconda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Schulz - parent Anaconda		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
W D E S O W A, MT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
JAMI ROMNE-FITZGERALD	CDC - Missoula	X	
Debbie Seward	Mon Polson, MT	X	
KATIES		X	
Will Seward	Polson	X	
Jane Clark	West Mont	X	
<del>Loelle Maguire</del>	<del>West Mont (Helena)</del>	<del>X</del>	
BRIAN ROAT	REG SERVICES, BLS	X	
Rhoda Miller	" " "	X	
Denise Smith	CDC - Missoula	X	
Jennifer Doney	CDC - Missoula	X	
Kelly Woodlock	CDC - Missoula	X	
CRIS VOLINIKATY	CDC - MSLA	X	
Barry Hammer	CDC - KALISPELL	X	

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
Vonnie Koenig	Parent	X	
Kathy Schenck	JCS Billings	X	
Rita Schellup	JCS Billings	X	
Laurena Briggs		X	
Carol Ann Briggs	Parent Billings	X	
Pat Dimsoff	Employer Billings	X	
Leslynn Skellings	Employee <sup>work with</sup> for DD individ.	X	
Linda Robinson	Employee	X	

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