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APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

January 26, 1977 - Room 225

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The meeting of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Institutions was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Harold Gerke. Other members present were:

Senator Elmer Flynn, Vice-chairman  
Senator Mark Etchart  
Representative Harry Hansen  
Representative Art Lund  
Representative Howard Ellis

Tom Briggs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, was present. Representative Bardonouve was also present at this meeting. Representative Marks was present for part of the meeting.

The chairman stated that the subject of today's meeting is BOULDER RIVER SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL. See visitor's list attached.

Tom Briggs distributed summary sheets on Boulder showing FY-76 expenditures, executive budget recommendations and LFA recommendations. He explains that LFA projects Boulder population to be less in the next two years than what the school is projecting, and that this is reflected in their budget recommendations.

Curt Chisholm introduced Larry Zanto, the new director of the Department of Institutions. Mr. Bill Conyard, Superintendent of Boulder, introduced various personnel from the school.

A package of reports was distributed by Mr. Conyard as background for the summary they will present to the committee in three parts. Rusty Redfield, Director of Community Services, then went into detail on the care of the patients. He explained the various conditions and medical and supervisory needs of the patients. He stated that the most effective supervision of the patients is on a one-to-one basis. They feel that group homes, as they are now operated with approximately eight patients, are not very effective. It was stated that natural home placement only works for a very small number and results in some returns. It was also stated that admission to Boulder is only after it has been shown that the community cannot provide the needs of the patient.

#### TRAINING

Richard VanHaeche, Director of Staff Development at Boulder, explained that they were upgrading the training of staff. The training program deals mainly with training techniques and management of the patients. They also try to provide for on-going training courses regarding related skills and college credit courses and workshops. A new project started a year ago deals with techniques for mentally retarded for all levels of staff. He further explained that the department pays for certain college credit courses when approved.

It was explained that Title I is a staff training program funded with federal funds. Listed in their report are the federal regulations pertaining to the school that Boulder must be in compliance with to continue with Title I.

Resident training and cottage staff participation was explained. In answer to a question, it was explained that the projected hours of training is never actually attained because of turnover. Also they put goals high and try to attain that goal.

Each resident is trained as to his own individual needs and potential--sometimes on a one-to-one basis and sometimes in a group training program for varying lengths of time each day, when applicable. Training programs are tried and then a professional evaluation is made on each patient.

#### STAFF

Bill Conyard went into the Montana law which pertains to Boulder which states Boulder's primary functions as to the patients' needs, care, treatment and training. The staff requirements requested by Boulder are felt by the school to be minimal to operate the school at the level required by the Revised Codes of Montana. They feel that services and environment has been improved.

Tom Doland, Personnel Director of Boulder, stated that the turnover of personnel at Boulder compares favorably with other institutions. He then went into detail on the various personnel needs with some increases and some decreases.

It was mentioned that housing in Boulder has improved and is now not as big a factor in turnover as it was. Overall staff turnover is averaging around 50%.

Chairman Gerke mentioned the hiring of out-of-state professionally trained personnel. Timothy Plasfa, Director of Habilitation at Boulder, stated that this school has a national reputation of having a good training program and they receive many applications. When an applicant has a high academic background and is well qualified for the position, that person is hired.

Mr. Bardanouve mentioned the number of personnel in the shop area and asked for an explanation of their duties. The grounds supervisor of Boulder explained the activities of these people and stated some services must be maintained on a 24-hour basis. They also maintain a preventive maintenance program. There are 68 buildings on the grounds. It was pointed out that utilities are cut off on any buildings not in use.

#### BUDGET

Mr. R. L. Heard, Assistant Superintendent of Boulder, gave a summary on the budget requests. He explained the differences between the school's requests and the LFA recommendations.

In personnel services, the difference is mainly the 10% vacancy savings projected by LFA.

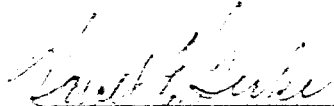
He felt the recommendation for contracted services was low. He also mentioned supplies; communications; travel (a breakdown was requested by the chairman); rent (he listed items covered by rent); utilities (feels 10% increase insufficient); repairs; other; and equipment.

Tom Briggs feels that total operating expense differences are based on the decrease in population projected. Cost increases by LFA are the same for Boulder as all the other institutions.

Tom Briggs gave a short report on a study done by his office on the comparison of Montana vs. eight other states regarding ratio of direct care staff positions to residents. The average direct staff ratio for the eight states was 1 to 1.6. Montana direct care staff ratio has been funded by the legislature for 1 to 1.02. Overall staffing ratios indicate that Montana has the highest of all nine states.

Mr. Gerke stated that this committee has been requested to look into the long range building program needs in order to make recommendations to the long range building program committee. He also stated that the committee will be going to Boulder for a visit as soon as it can be scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m. The subject of Boulder will be finished on January 27, 1977.

  
HAROLD GERKE, CHAIRMAN

WITNESSES FOR 1/26/77 MEETING OF  
INSTITUTIONS  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

NAME	TITLE
Peter Tambenberger M.D.	Clinical Director PRS+H
Don Dolan	Personel Director PRS+H
R. L. Heard	Asst. Supt. EPSX+H
Bic Conyard	Supt.
Ray Holman	Director Admin Support
Rusty Ruffalo	Director Community Services
Don Dodge	AFSCME, AFK-CIO
Noreen Messick	Local 971 Boulder
Brian T. Trinity	AFSCME (CWA), Boulder
Ann Mary Dinsmore	Rep House 75
[Signature]	Dirk Sol
Rod Weiss	Budget Analyst - OBPP
John Kneppack	Reprints Manager - OBPF7
[Signature]	OBPF7
[Signature]	Director of [unclear]
[Signature]	[unclear]
[Signature]	[unclear]
[Signature]	Director, [unclear] Dept. GR5+H

Richard P. Hansen  
Lenny Putnam  
Margaret Heating  
Michael Butler

Richard Swenson

Don Phelps

Don Benson

Jim Hansen

Bill Carter

Ed Hill

Karen Wilson

Deanna M. DeLynn T BRS&H  
Hospital Administrator

Director Nursing Service

Resident Support Admin. BRS&H

Developmental Disabilities Division / SRS

D/I

D/I

Dept of Institutions

Graville Conference BRS&H

Just direct.

D/I