

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
AGENCY 1

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

January 31, 1977
8:00 a.m.
Room 225
State Capitol Bldg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Representative Bradley. Roll was taken with Representative Bradley, Senator Stephens, Senator Story and Senator Thomas present.

Jim VanKoten gave the executive recommendations. He said they were funded completely by general funds and federal funds. He said they do not have much money for a lot of activities which benefit all of Montana. They spent \$123,000 in FY'76. Only asked for \$129,000 from the general fund. They asked for \$121,000 and the OBPP gave them \$123,000 in FY'77.

Mr. Van Koten said they were asking for 3 very beneficial budget modifications - a - microbiologist, b- tuberculosis control program and c - an epidemiologist, from the general fund. As far as the FTE's, we are the same as the LFA except for the TB expansion.

Curt Nichols, the Fiscal Analyst, gave his recommendations. Recommend at the current level of FTE's and services as FY '76 brought forward with inflation factors. Allow the expansion of tuberculosis control in the state, with the idea to put Galen out of the tuberculosis business. We believe tuberculosis can be treated in the communities. We are including funds for hospital stays expected to average around 10 days. \$58,680 in FY'78 and \$61,049 in FY'79 is the cost of expanded tuberculosis control effort.

Mr. James mentioned HB 122 or 294, along with a couple others, which if passed, will have a considerable effect on this program. It would take from this department \$230,000 to \$240,000 federal funding. We would lose several positions in the lab. He gave a brief rundown on this program and turned it over to Dr. Skinner.

Dr. Skinner outlined some of their activities - such as polio, measles, venereal disease control and immunization, tuberculosis control, support of lab services, etc. None of this could be done without the benefit of the lab. As for staff, they have 2 federal people, on loan, 4 field staff, 1 nurse, 1 part time secretary and 1 full time staff nurse, plus the secretarial staff in Helena.

Dr. Skinner said in the venereal disease area, it was down for the first time. Measles are on the increase; probably one of the reasons is because we were involved in the swine flu work. There were over 500 cases the past year. They are also involved in whooping cough, tetanus and childhood disease immunization. Tuberculosis is the largest concern to the Department. Major problems are coordination with the Indian Health Services and Galen.

Representative Bardanouve asked why in government, can't one bureaucracy talk to another?

Dr. Skinner said there were several factors concerning communication with Galen; physicians feeling that the two year follow up is not part of his service to his patients; when a patient goes out on a week-end pass and doesn't return, it takes a week or so for them to report it. Other factors also. He said we do have a telephone report every Friday, which is a tremendous help. They tell us who was released and who was admitted.

Rep. Bardanouve then asked about the clinic in Butte - isn't this just a duplication?

Dr. Skinner said yes, in a way. He said they got started 20 years ago because of so much TB in Butte and has been on-going. Maybe this should be moved now.

Sen. Stephens asked why both Galen and the Butte clinic couldn't be closed.

Dr. Skinner said they probably could be, but should have a year or so transition or we will end up being a bill payer.

Senator Stephens then asked if they have a micro-biologist in Butte. Dr. Skinner said, no, we have a new director for the lab and it is here in Helena.

Mr. James mentioned the lab is cutting back on some of the free services they have been doing in the past.

After a little more discussion and no more questions, this portion of the meeting was closed.

The committee then went into executive session.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS -

After a discussion, Senator Thomas made a motion that the Physical Fitness Coordinator be dissolved.

All voted Aye

MOTION PASSED

Representative Bardanouve made a few remarks at this time about the duplication of so many agencies, thinking that some thought should be given to this problem. He was thinking about Galen and the Butte Clinic. Senator Stephens talked about the alcoholics as well as the tuberculosis patients at Galen and said politically you can't close Galen, but what about using it for existing programs. Rep. Bardanouve said it had been tried, but politics got in the way. It needs a long, hard look.

STATE - LOCAL COORDINATOR

Mr. Lewis said they wanted to continue this particular program. This position is needed for coordination between the state and local governments.

The Fiscal Analyst said they look at the function as that of the entire department. The function of the state-local coordinator could be absorbed within the department and people would not have to be added. He recommended to discontinue the program.

Senator Roberts thought there might be a duplication here.

Senator Thomas said this is another case where we could dissolve.

After a little more discussion, Senator Story made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Fiscal Analyst.

Ayes have it. Representative Bradley voted no. MOTION PASSED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Mr. Lewis recommends the current level. He said they were all good hardworking professionals. If they did not do the audits, we would have to hire someone to do it.

Senator Stephens said this is one area where they are fullfilling a real service.

The Fiscal Analyst recommendations are very close to the Executive recommendations. We have included purchase of an automobile; the FTE's are the same in both cases (28.9)

Senator Stephens asked how long they had been doing the audits and Mr. Nichols said since about 1900.

Open discussion.

Senator Roberts moved we accept the recommendation of the Fiscal Analyst.

Senator Thomas seconded. Motion passed unanimous.

ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT -

Mr. Lewis said they recommend funding at current level. From all feedback they have had good comments.

The Fiscal Analyst recommends continuation at the current level. The drop was in the rent - this will be taken care of by Central Services.

Sen. Roberts asked what they do? Mr. Nichols said they develop accounting systems for towns, cities and counties, make modifications for their various needs.

Senator Thomas wanted to know if some type of sunset shouldn't be incorporated after their work is finished.

The Fiscal Analyst said he felt there should be a finishing time when their work is implemented.

Senator Stephens asked if they had the authority to require a city or county to adopt their recommendations. Mr. Lewis said he believed so. In 1931 the budget law gave them the authority.

There was some open discussion.

Senator Thomas made the motion we accept the Fiscal Analyst recommendation for both years of the biennial, writing in a four year self-destruct at the end of 4 years.

Senator Roberts said we can not do that.

Mr. Lewis asked the committee to talk to Mr. Pendergast again before doing something like that.

Representative Bradley said, "I don't think it is our responsibility to start making demands on completion of tasks." She then called for further discussion on this motion.

More discussion.

Senator Roberts made an amended motion to fund the travel at the Executive level and otherwise accept the Fiscal Analyst recommendation.

Senator Thomas called for the question.

All Ayes. Motion passed unanimous.

It was suggested that perhaps the Chairman could send a letter to the Department setting up some kind of mechanics for self-destruct.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 - scheduled to meet again at 7:00 tonight.

Donna Bradley
Representative Bradley, Chairman