

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
AGENCY 1

February 1, 1977  
8:00 A.M.  
Room 225  
State Capitol Bldg.

HEALTH

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

The meeting was called to order. Roll was taken and all members were present.

Mr. Jim Van Koten gave the executive budget recommendations. He said it was interesting to note that in FY 1978 the LFA recommendation for general fund for current level services was around the same as ours. The second year it was higher. We recommend the use of federal funds, hoping they will be available.

One modification request is for emergency medical services which was approved by the legislative finance committee in 1976, for around \$681,000 in federal funds. We have each approved this. The general fund request was denied.

The Fiscal Analyst said they were close together. We approved the major expansion in emergency medical services.. They asked for \$160,000 a year in general funds to go with this. We did not recommend this because the federal funds in this program are going to end in the next few years. We don't want too large a program and have to pick it all up.

He said one of the differences is the executive budget is high in equipment. We are higher in operating expenses, such as medical equipment, ambulances, etc. at the local level. He left out 1/2 of a position. Since FY 1976 there has been a reorganization and part of the people were transferred to Health Planning and Resource Division and he transferred 1 whole person instead of 1/2. This was an error. I have made that adjustment. To do this you have to add \$10,852 in FH 1978 and \$10,920 in FY 79 to the personal service amount as well as the federal fund amount.

The funds for highway alcohol testing in the past has come from the Highway Safety Division and we are both recommending the funds continue to come from there.

The division has objected to that. They want to get their funds out.

Dr. Knight presented their requests. He spoke a little more about Galen, the topic covered yesterday. He said the Hospital Facilities Division licenses hospitals and nursing homes. About 8% comes from the state, the rest is federal funds. This is almost a program that the federal government runs. They dictate what happens in this program. We do try to get input from people in the state of these federal regulations. He also talked about the Emergency Medical Service Division and its growth.

Next, George Fenner, the Head of Hospital Facilities made a few comments about his department and asked for questions.

Mr. James then spoke to the committee. He said this program is primarily in two sections. 1 - Survey and certification program for medicare and medicaid and we get funding from the Department of Social Services. The second is the Emergency Medical Services. This comes from state funds with federal assistance. He talked about the LFA's budget and made a few comments on the differences.

Dr. Lackman of the Highway Alcohol Program made a few comments.

Drew Dawson outlined some of the responsibilities and activities of the EMS Bureau. The Department of Health is responsible for establishing and administration of a comprehensive emergency system. We must have adequate vehicles, training of competent people, both physicians and nurses, etc.

He said they inspect every ambulance service in the state every year. Personnel must meet certain standards. We handle the follow up on the 107 ambulance services in the state.

He said federal funding has been secured and administered through their office. Only a few areas receive grants. Competent grant applications are being developed. The majority of funds passed on to local governments are used for ambulance service and medical plans.

He also gave a rundown on duties of the regional coordinators which were added through a budget amendment. They want 3 regional coordinators in addition to the staff in the Helena office. He said both budget recommendations have indicated they should be continued provided the federal funds are available for salaries. Without the regional coordinators we could not provide good medical assistance statewide.

Dr. Lackman explained the lab division of the Department of Health. He said we have asked to be funded under general fund money; however, we all agree it should not come from general funds. It should come from the Highway Safety funds.

He said we have 16 machines out in the law enforcement area. We are responsible for training of the operators of these machines. We have sample collection kits in all automobiles involved in law enforcement. They can send the sample in to our lab and we do the analysis. We have to inspect the machines at least once a year.

He said they also get into drugs and carbon monoxide in regard to traffic safety. They have 2/10 of a person in this program; paid by the Department of Institutions. They also have a great deal of court work; 32 times in the last fiscal year. There are 2 8/10 people to run this program.

Senator Stephens told Dr. Lackman he was familiar with what he was talking about. Does your lab handle all samples? Dr. Lackman said no, there were no samples to handle in breath tests.

Senator Stephens asked who did the blood and urine tests? Dr. Lackman said this is done by the lab. People can demand the blood test instead of breath test, if they so desire.

Senator Stephens asked Mr. Dawson who is doing the EMS evaluations? Mr. Dawson replied that Dr. Jack Davis from Kalispell is primarily responsible.

Senator Stephens asked if they had been turned down on the 5 new FTE's. Mr. Dawson said yes. He said they were not 5 new people. 4 are already there, we want them to be picked up by state funds.

Representative Marks asked Dr. Lackman if people ever ask for both kinds of tests for alcohol? Dr. Lackman said yes. Rep. Marks then wanted to know if he found any differences in the tests. Dr. Lackman said no, not really.

Jacqueline McKnight of The Licensing and Certification Bureau passed out a handout on her department and stayed available for questions. (handout attached). Their responsibility is to develop and enforce licensing rules and regulations for the operation of hospitals and related health care facilities and services.

Representative Marks asked Mr. Dawson how many regions do you have? Mr. Dawson replied 3, none in Helena.

Representative Marks then asked if the big difference between him and the LFA recommendation is you feel the federal funds are going to be sent in other regions and they won't be available, is that right?

Mr. Dawson agreed; there is a big question if we will get federal funds next year for the two currently funded regions.

Representative Marks then asked if he said he had to watch over 107 ambulances. Mr. Dawson said yes, that is another reason they need the regional coordinator.

Representative Marks then asked, on the EMT program, how do you set up the training for these?

Mr. Dawson said the EMT training program is in 7 educational institutions throughout the state. The majority of the EMT is done on a volunteer basis by local physicians.

Senator Roberts asked if on the EMT where they proposed rule changes, there is some concern that your requirements are too stringent. What is going to happen?

Mr. Dawson said in certifying emergency medical technicians, the Board of Medical Examiners feel you need much more than just a general first aid program. Also continual education requirements are necessary.

Senator Roberts asked about the turnovers in his department and wanted to know what the problems are.

Dr. Knight said more contact is made now than when he first took over. He also said they had more input from physicians throughout the state than ever before.

Mr. Dawson said there had only been 2 changes in personnel.

Senator Roberts asked Mr. Dawson what his background was. Mr. Dawson said he had worked at the State Institute in Boulder, worked for the Department of Community Affairs and as a volunteer of the EMS for 7 years.

Senator Roberts asked what public health education is.

Mr. Dawson replied, responsibility for public health and education. Help in instruction, personal classification, training, etc.

Representative Bradley asked if he would be getting \$150,000 from general funds and over \$600,000 in federal money, and is it true that the federal money will be gone in two or three years?

Mr. Dawson agreed, probably not over three years away.

Representative Bradley then asked if what the regional people are doing is mostly planning as assistance. Mr. Dawson agreed. She then asked if he thought the state would phase out the coordinators. He did not think so.

Mr. Dawson said it is important to establish a regional system to tie the local and regions together for EM Services.

Representative Bradley then said the state had come a long way. How much further can we go? What will you want in two years from now?

Mr. Dawson said I think the proposal you have here is at a minimum level that we can get by. I hope local government will start helping more. I think with that in mind, we can handle with the existing level of staff as proposed. We have a long way to go in some parts of the state; other parts are way ahead. Here in Helena is an area that needs upgrading.

There was a little more discussion and with no more questions from the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

  
Dorothy Bradley, Chairman