

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
of  
AGENCY 1

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH SERVICES

February 3, 1977  
8:00 A.M.  
Room 225  
State Capitol Bldg.

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

CHRONIC DISEASE PROGRAM

Mike Billings, OBPP, talked about the executive budget and explained the priority system. He said the funds were allocated to different departments who in turn allocated funds to the subprograms under their departments. He said the executive does not interfere in the delegation of money to the subprograms. This is how the Heart Diagnostic Center was eliminated. He asked the committee to add to the budget presented the following amounts for this program: \$32,945 for FY 78 and \$33,448 for FY 79. He said faulty judgement is the reason it was left out in the first place.

Ron Wise, budget analyst, then explained the system used in allocating the funds. He said it was his responsibility to work with the Health Service Program. The priority budget system required the Health Service Program to justify their program in total for all subprograms. He said Chronic Disease Program was only 1 of the 9 subprograms. Once we had selected the 9 packages to work with, we had to fund them at 3 different levels. 1 level is the current level budget. The second level would be a reduced level - 80% level, the third was the expanded level where the agency could add new areas.

He said they took the 3 levels on a priority table and the agency then decided what the priority levels were for each program. The handout sheet is attached with full explanation. All A-packages were funded, only 2 at current level were funded.

Curt Nichols, the LFA gave his recommendations. He said our recommendations are not tied as closely to the priority system as we would have liked. He had recommended funding on the B level priority - current level. There is a great expansion between 1976 and 1978. This is due to the very large vacancy savings they experienced in fiscal 76 as well as in the WIC program. The food gotten out in fiscal 76 was below that they anticipate getting out in 78-79.

He listed some of the programs they recommend funding and the amounts as follows: WIC program - We recommend \$304,000 in 1978 and \$320,000 in 79 in addition to the B level.

Infant Screening - \$40,754 in fiscal 78 and \$42,905 in 1979. (test for newborns)

Crippled Children - \$228,000 in 78 and \$243,000 in 79.

Home Health - \$21,000 in 78 and \$22,000 in 79 (funds are not available now)

Mouth Rinse Project - \$10,000 in 78 and \$11,000 in 79.

The LFA said this is all federal funds except the \$40,000 for infant screening. He said they had also reduced the family planning to \$200,000. That is funded by title 20 and should be looked at as general funds.

Dr. Anderson introduced Gary Blewett of the Chronic Disease Program. He mentioned at the B-level funding they could not do much. They had asked for \$235,000 in general funds and an addition \$15,000 in federal funds.

Representative Bardanouve talked to the group and told those who were concerned about the heart unit in Great Falls not to be too concerned. This program is of great value and I know this sub-committee will make an adjustment in the budget.

Dr. Anderson made a few remarks about the priority system and how it worked. He mentioned that only 2 current level programs had been funded. He also said it was his decision to remove the heart center, not the governors. We felt it was less needed than some of the others.

Representative Bradley commented that she felt most of the problem had been resolved but called for any witness who desired, to speak to the committee.

Senator Thomas made a few remarks, as a witness, on the need for this program for handicap children. He talked about the cost and how many times the family can not handle it. He said only 15% of the money goes to administration and the rest goes to helping the children.

Representative Meloy made a few remarks on behalf of the heart diagnostic center in Great Falls. He felt if this is the way the priority budget system works then he felt another look should be taken at the budget system.

Representative Bradley then passed out some petitions she had received.

Several witnesses spoke in support of the center, witness sheet attached. Some of the witnesses are: Bob Deming, Marie Olson, June Mead, Jean Morrison, Gen Safransky, Lois Docktor, Dr. Curtis, Madlin Gama, Lorraine Deming, Ms Garceau and others.

Dr. Curtis said that about 8 in every thousand born are born with a congenital heart disease. He said they see about 400 patients a year. We also talk to doctors, etc, across the state regarding children and that are sent elsewhere, such as Mayo, Salt Lake City, Denver or elsewhere. Without the center in Great Falls, parents would have no where in Montana to go. We also get help from doctors at no cost to the state.

Madlin Gama made a plea for the entire Health Department. She talked about the budget and how they run out of money long before the end of the year.

The meeting was then open to questions from the committee.

Representative Marks asked how effective is this new budget system.

Dr. Anderson said they had volunteered for this. One of the problems is it takes a lot of time and a lot of input. The system isn't at fault but needs much more time to work on it.

Larry Huggens, of the budget office, said the individual programs were at a disadvantage because the rest of the programs were on a normal budget. If the entire department had been on the same level we would not have run into this problem. He said there are over 400 programs in state government and this takes a lot of analysis and time. It does have some advantages. It helps to identify the good things in a program.

Dr. Knight said they all ended up at the bottom. Seemed futile to him.

Senator Stephens said they were not here to discuss the PBS/ We are here to discuss the Heart Program. It disturbed him that they could have overlooked a program like this; but the error had been caught.

Senator Roberts mentioned he hoped public demand wouldn't have to be used each time.

Representative Marks asked Dr. Curtis how many children he sees in a year and what are their ages. Dr. Curtis said over 400 from all over the state. The range in age is from 0 to 21.

With no more questions from the committee, this portion of the meeting was concluded.

Senator Stephens asked if any one in the room could tell him about the Anaconda Fluoride Mouth Rinse Project.

Dr. Terrill told how they are trying this out in schools. The children rinse their mouths 2 times a week for 1 minute. He said we expect to get a 30% reduction in cavities. The cost is about 40¢ per child per year. It is a simple thing to do and we have over 5000 children in the project.

Senator Roberts asked if this program is monitored and asked about funds.

Dr. Terrill said yes, we are doing a complete dental examination. He said this is total federal reimbursement.

There was a little more discussion about this program.

Gary Blewett then went over the full budget. He said one comment was the implication that they had abused the system by putting the heart diagnostic center as the lowest priority which caused a lot of flack. He said they had not done so on purpose. If it were possible, he would go back and make a lot of different changes.

He went over the memo passed out on January 31 and gave his overview of each of the 9 sub-programs in the Health Service Area. He said the LFA gave more general funds than does the executive budget. The executive gives a 20% reduction in general funds. On federal funds the LFA recommends only 1/2 of the federal funds we feel are needed. The government authorizes them to use all the federal funds they can get.

Handicapped Children Subprogram - This program is essential to handicapped children, children with cleft palate, etc. Once an evaluation has been made we have to pay for this. Insurance never covers all. We are asking for 5 new employees to be located in 5 of the larger communities in the state. The executive recommends an A level, making us rely on federal funds. This was ranked as our highest priority in funding.

Early Detection and Treatment Subprogram - We are requesting \$185,000 in general funds for each year of the biennium as well as \$770,000 a year in federal funds.

Nutrition Subprogram - This is the largest funded one. Most of the money goes for food to certain high risk mothers and children. The request for general funds concerns 2 program additions - \$110,000 is being requested for a new contract director and \$92,000 would fund 5 nutritionists to be located in the larger communities of the state.

Family Planning Subprogram - The LFA talked about Title 20 funds. There are 14,000 women in the low income group. We ask you to award the full amount of federal funds plus \$30,000 matching funds for this program.

Administration Subprogram - No increase in funds. A reduction in this, we can live with.

Chronic Disease Subprogram - The Heart Diagnostic Center in Great Falls is only one part of this program. \$235,000 additional funds in general funds for each year of the biennium is requested. Only \$15,000 in federal funds will be available. At current level would cause severe hardships. We would have to draw from another department to keep this going.

Nursing Service Subprogram - We have requested a large increase so we can field nurses in 5 communities throughout the state.

Health Education Subprogram - Here we provide education, consultation, etc. We are asking for \$100,000 in state funds and \$142,000 in federal funds.

Dental Health - He said Jack Terrill will present comments on this program. The Anaconda Fluoride Mouth Rinse Project is in this department. We request the present level. We want a C level funding to employ 1 more dental employee. We would like to carry this program state wide but do not have enough staff to do this. Request \$86,000 in general funds for 1st year and \$143,000 the second year with approximately \$105,000 a year in federal funds.

After a few more remarks by Dr. Terrill, the meeting was adjourned.

Dorothy Bradley  
Dorothy Bradley, Chairman

Nina Kosmas, Sec.