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APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

February 8, 1977 - Room 225

The meeting of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Institutions was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman 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.

The subject of today's meeting is MONTANA STATE PRISON.

Bobbie F. Hickox, Correctional Sgt. of the Montana State Prison, spoke to the committee on behalf of the staff. He distributed a copy of the letter signed by 85% of the staff at the prison, which has been distributed to all members of the House and Senate. This letter stated how concerned the staff is about the whole security of the new prison.

He said that the outlying housing should be closed because of inadequate supervision and escapes. It was suggested that only maximum, medium and minimum inmates should be moved into the new prison. Close custody inmates should stay in the old prison until 3 towers are built at the new prison, an observation post installed in the food service building, a new close security unit for 200 is built, and the maximum security unit expanded by 40 cells. It was the staff's hope that a small delegation of legislators come to the prison and be shown major case files and conditions at the new and old prisons and talk to the staff.

He said they feel there is too much physical contact between inmates. This is how problems start. They fear moving all 500 plus inmates into the new prison built for 335. They feel it would be an explosive situation.

The 2 fences seem to be adequate when completed. The 28-cell maximum housing that is available in the new prison is functional but it needs to be expanded by 40 more cells.

Sgt. Hickox said they feel there are not enough correctional officers (in blue uniforms), not counting positions that do other duties. George Schaffer, guard at the prison, said he has not had a day off in 9 weeks. They said the reasons for this is the 24-hour coverage necessary, vacations, sick leaves and work compensation leaves. Thus a great deal of overtime is created. Mr. Hickox said they have a waiting list of prospective guards, but no budget approval to hire them.

The observation post is necessary to immediately stop any disturbance in the dining areas. There are approximately 96 inmates in the dining area at a time, with rotations. The food service personnel, mostly women, do not feel safe.

It was also mentioned that in case population should be reduced in the future, which they feel unlikely, federal prisoners could be brought in and revenue would be generated.

Sgt. Hickox also mentioned proposed legislation which would make paroles harder to get and longer terms mandatory. This they feel would also increase the population if passed.

In answer to a question, Sgt. Hickox said they feel the prisoners should be able to earn good time so they have something to look forward to and work toward. Also it is something that can be taken away as a penalty.

If the old prison is kept operating after the move, they feel 34 more FTE's per shift would be necessary. The inmates must still have programs available, although some positions such as recreational director and librarian could be shared between the two prisons.

Sgt. Hickox also said that there were a number of employees who would not be able to work in the new prison. Such as older tower men who cannot function with inmates because they have not had any direct contact up to now.

Sgt. Hickox listed the staff's priorities: 1. building the towers; 2. observation post in the dining area; and 3. supplemental budgeting.

Chairman Gerke said perhaps the best approach is for the committee to get together with the Department of Institutions, the Governor's people, the warden and the staff and work out the best plan for the next biennium.

Hearing closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

John Fitzpatrick, Research Manager of the Office of Budget and Program Planning, spoke to the committee on the deinstitutionalization of all developmentally disabled who can be cared for in a less restrictive environment.

There are three stages to the DD plan as itemized in a report that was distributed to the committee.

Boulder River School and Hospital would be the primary staging and training area for DD clients prior to release into the community. Community placements may be made from Galen, but will not normally be made directly from Warm Springs School and Hospital.

The DD population now at WSSH would be moved into vacant beds at Galen or BRSH so they can be evaluated and prepared for community placement where appropriate.

The non-ambulatory population at BRSH will not be excluded from evaluation for potential placement in community facilities, especially the nursing homes scheduled for Glendive and Billings.

In stage 1, by July 1, 1977, the DD population of BRSH will number 282 persons. Galen will have 53 patients, with the WSSH DD patient level near or at zero. All patients at Galen will be housed in certified beds inside the main hospital building.

In stage 2, the Department of Institutions will apply for a waiver from the 1977 Medicaid standards to solve the non-ambulatory decertification problem. The proposed plan of correction includes closure of the non-ambulatory facility within 2 years and transfer of BRSH patients to community nursing facilities at Glendive and Billings within the next two years.

In stage 3, 50-80 patients from BRSH will be transferred to the Glendive/Billings nursing homes. It will place approximately 130 individuals from BRSH and Galen.

The above plan will make it possible to house the DD population in community facilities and/or certified institutional beds by the close of the next biennium.

By July 1, 1979, DD population at BRSH would be 120-150; Galen 0; WSSH 0; Glendive Nursing Home 40; and Billings Nursing Home 10-40.

Judy Carlson, Special Assistant to the Governor, requested a time to discuss this plan with the committee.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

The agency had requested 2 cottage life attendants plus .5 nurse for a salary expense of approximately \$25,000 for 1978 and \$27,000 for 1979. This was okayed by the committee.

\$6,000 additional medical services in Contracted Services was okayed by the committee.

It was agreed by John Fitzpatrick that Mountain View would spend down the unrestricted federal funds this year before general funds are used.

There was a discussion on federal programs that begin with federal support, only to gradually become state fund responsibilities.

It was requested that present staff positions that began as federal projects with federal funds be researched for the last five years and reported to the committee.

Tom Briggs also requested that there be a commitment by the Governor's people that the federal funds would be spent down.

Rep. Ellis moved that this be adopted. Rep. Hansen seconded it. It was unanimously approved. Senator Flynn was absent.

CENTER FOR THE AGED

Tom Briggs reported on a recent letter from Ron Phelps to Dr. Carlson saying that staffing at the center is not sufficient and would request 22.7 FTE's for 1978 and 1979.

The present recommendation is 90.43 and Mr. Cerovski thought the staffing was adequate.

The cost of the privacy curtains was estimated at \$2200.

Under equipment, they listed a washer and dryer, walk-in cooler, equipment for examining room and physical therapy room. A statement was also enclosed of what equipment is available at Twin Bridges that they could use.

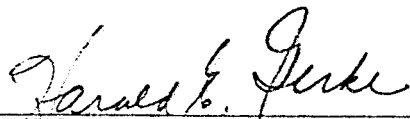
The new wing at the center was originally built as an intermedient unit. Now they wish to make it a skilled level unit which will require medically skilled personnel.

The chairman said if this is a skilled level unit and Warm Springs patients are moved there, then the money allotted for those patients at Warm Springs would have to be transferred to the center.

Right now they have 10 certified skilled nursing beds, 45 intermedient beds and 91 personal care beds at the center.

What they want is 74 certified skilled nursing beds and 72 beds intermedient care.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.


Harold Gerke, Chairman

WITNESSES FOR 2/8/77 MEETING
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
INSTITUTIONS

NAME	TITLE
<u>Ferdinand H. Vukobrat</u>	<u>St. 11/74, MSP</u>
George Schuster	Custody, MSP - President of union
Michael M. Hago	Supervisor, M.S.P.
Robert F. Hickox	Correctional Sgt, MSP