

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

February 9, 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 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 GALEN STATE HOSPITAL.

Tom Briggs distributed summary sheets on the Galen State Hospital showing FY-76 expenditures, executive budget recommendations and LFA recommendations. He said that Galen reverted \$144,000 to the general fund in FY-76 because, he feels, of decreased population at Galen. Four budget modifications were submitted by Galen which included establishing themselves as an acute care facility for all institutions. Also it included Galen picking up the Lighthouse Program which have been funded under the Department of Institutions. It is the department's position that it not be funded.

Tom Briggs said his office expects the population to be reduced considerably below what their current level is right now. This is based on plans to place the developmentally disabled population elsewhere at a rate of 15 per year (population is 60 now). Also 16 geriatrics would be moved as soon as the Center of the Aged wing is open.

It is the LFA's estimate that the average population will be 236. The FTE's have been cut by 42 positions for a total of 252 FTE's for each year.

Regarding the TB population at Galen, it has been suggested that these patients be taken care of in the Butte TB center. Galen has requested \$51,000 for 1978 and \$62,000 for 1979 for these patients.

Curt Chisholm, of the Department of Institutions, said that the key element in deciding on Galen's budget will be the estimated population, which is difficult to predict.

Dr. E. P. Higgins, superintendent of Galen State Hospital, said their population fluctuates from 250 to 280. It is usually the turnover of the alcoholic patients. He said one thing that should be taken into consideration is the in-patient admissions.

In 1974-75, there were 1326 in-patient admissions. In 75-76, there were 1,725 admissions. Projected figures show over 2,000 for this year. Each one has a physical, an interview by a counselor, lab work, nurses' work, record keeping and conferences, plus follow-up work by the counselors - all of this takes approx. 12 hours. To discharge a patient takes another 4 hours.

Most of the time these admissions and discharges cancel each other out and nothing is reflected in the daily population level. This is a very large cost factor to be considered.

Most of their TB treatment is drug treatment, with little surgery. TB is still a problem these days - particularly with alcoholics and Indians. They have 16 patients with TB and 40 with pulmonary diseases.

Tom Briggs said that according to the Department of Health report, the average length of stay in Galen for TB was 134 days. This compares to an average length of stay of 10 days in community facilities.

Dr. Higgins said that in 10 days they can be given an acute program of drug treatments and supposedly are made noninfectuous. This does not mean they are cured. A large number of them become re-infected. It was pointed out that Medicare only pays 10 days of hospital care for TB, while the lab work usually takes longer than that. Dr. Higgins said they have the facilities to take care of these TB patients completely.

Dr. Higgins said that they estimate the use of 100 beds for alcoholism in the hospital. We have 86 patients now, but the projection is 120. As the community facilities are being started, we get more and more referrals. Dr. Higgins said he would like to see 60 beds in the hospital used for some other type of medical purpose. Either pulmonary or long term care.

It was pointed out that there is a minimum nursing staff necessary to be certified for Medicaid, no matter what the population is in the hospital.

Dr. Higgins said there are 59 developmentally disabled patients at Galen right now, 18 of them are women. This total is to be reduced to 45 by transfers in the near future. He would like to see more TB and pulmonary patients brought into the hospital. Dr. Higgins said Dr. Knight agrees with this.

Dr. Higgins said they have three programs they would like to expand with regard to alcoholism: (1) Work with long term alcoholics who would be part of the hospital and are unable to participate with the 28-day program due to health reasons. Estimated at 30-40 patients. (2) Develop a unit for alcoholics under 18 years old. Estimated at 25. (3) Develop a family program whereby one member of an alcoholic's family gets indoctrination and counseling. Estimated at 25.

Larry Zanto, director of the Department of Institutions, said a final recommendation is not ready on the developmentally disabled population in the various institutions. He feels that the individual budgets could be finalized and approved by this committee without their final recommendation. The shifting of patients should not make any major difference, he feels.

Tom Briggs said he believes the decision on the Lighthouse Program and other decisions would make a difference. LFA needs the exact final agency requests within a very short time.

Mr. Gerke mentioned a suggestion before that the non-ambulatory patients of Boulder could be moved into Galen. Mr. Zanto said that he felt that Galen is not the best answer for these non-ambulatory.

John Weida, director of Lighthouse, said this program began at Warm Springs. The Southwestern Drug Program deals with people with drug problems in a walkin basis. Most of the drug addiction patients come from the western half of the state.

Darryl Bruno, Department of Institutions, said a grant has been received for the Lighthouse program for \$37,000 which requires \$12,000 matching funds. A budget revision has been requested for an extension of this program by using an unused portion of the Lighthouse funding from last year. For the next biennium, a modified request was made for \$100,000 in region 2 and 3 for FY-78 and \$100,000 in the other two regions for FY-79.

It was stated that the Lighthouse program would be under community programs in the addictive diseases division in the central office of the Department of Institutions.

Total operating budget requested was \$145,738 for FY-78 and \$147,829 for FY-79. Galen absorbs the food costs and some other items. It is hard to break down the exact amounts.

The maximum population that could be handled in this Lighthouse project is 18 to 20. The ages range from 15 to 45. There is no age limit. 55% of them come through the court system and this is increasing. John Weida also said that approximately 35% of the people they treat could pay something for the services. Chairman Gerke said this should be looked into and also more firm figures on the budget needs should be made available to the committee.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:** Chairman Gerke said some of the long range building requests for Galen were covered in the report by the Department of Institutions. Joseph Balkovatz, administrator of Galen, said another item needed is a new roof on the receiving hospital. \$15,000 was one estimate, but bids would be necessary. He also requested paint for inside and out of all buildings for an estimated \$88,000.

Mr. Balkovatz also said they would like to have demolition of the old pavilion.

There was a break in the Galen hearing for the committee to hear a report on the WOMAC study on region 4 at Warm Springs.

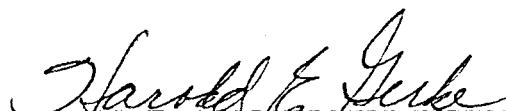
Mr. Balkovatz confirmed that there were two residences at Galen not presently occupied. One is a former electrician's house which is being held for the use of another doctor they hope to hire.

Dr. Knight's residence is also empty. Some remodeling is needed. Mr. Balkovatz said he presently pays 60% of \$253 a month for his house. Dr. Knight's house would cost 60% of \$374 a month, which is higher than his present rent. It is felt this is a little high.

Donald Holmes, director of the Montana Alcoholism Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs, distributed a report on alcoholism and related drug abuse programs. He said Galen is starting to see the influx of patients from the community facilities that are opening. Projected admissions for alcoholism in 1977 at Galen is 3460 persons. By that time they will have reached the capacity of the hospital. It is their recommendation that a second state center be opened in eastern Montana during 1978.

50% is an estimate on their success rate. He feels 70% is a good achievable figure. They serve 7 to 8 families a week right now. They would like to expand this and also the youth program.

Hearing closed on Galen at 11:30 a.m. It will continue on February 10, 1977.

  
Harold Gerke, Chairman