

By mail

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

February 17, 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 Mark Etchart
Representative Harry Hansen
Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis

Senator Flynn was absent. Tom Briggs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, was present. Also Representative Bardanoue.

The subject of the meeting was MENTAL HEALTH BUREAU AND CENTERS. See visitor's lists attached.

Tom Briggs distributed summary sheets on the Mental Health Bureau showing FY-76 expenditures, FY-77 appropriation, next biennium agency request, LFA recommendation and Executive recommendation.

This bureau administers the community mental health programs' distribution of general funds. There are mandates on this bureau by the legislature. There are five mental health centers in Montana. \$1,168,972 was appropriated in 1976 for all the centers plus \$83,000 federal funds. They spent \$1,076,433 state funds and \$48,000 federal funds. They have requested \$2.8 million for 1978 and \$3.5 for 1979, all state funds. LFA recommended \$1.6 million for 1978 and \$3.2 for 1979. Executive recommendation was \$1.9 and \$2.1.

The bureau was appropriated \$91,114 for 1976 total operating costs but spent \$156,871. An additional \$463,802 in general fund moneys was spent in 1976 by the five centers. This money was transferred from Warm Springs State Hospital under a contractual agreement, bringing the total general funds spent by the centers in 1976 to \$1,540,235. They anticipate another \$450,000 in 1977 from WSSH.

LFA believes there are reserve funds available for the centers to use in the next biennium, but the bureau and centers do not agree. They insist these moneys are committed. LFA is going by the rule that all other funds are to be spent before general funds.

Phillip Powers, chief of Mental Health Field Services Bureau of the Adaptive Services Division of the Department of Institutions, went into the history of the mental health services in Montana.

A discussion was held on FTE's for the bureau. They requested 4 and the executive recommendation was for 4. The bureau had 2 FTE's plus 2 more transferred from WSSH, paid by WSSH. The bureau is now requesting budget transferral to their budget.

Under Contracted Services, the bureau is requesting \$6,200 each year. \$5,000 is for the Mental Health Advisory Council and \$1,100 for printing.

MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

Clark Anderson, director of Mental Health Center-Region V, said this is the first time the centers have had an opportunity to present their budget requests themselves and are appreciative. They appreciated the committee visiting each of the centers, also.

Mr. Anderson said all five centers operate under federal staffing grants. Both the federal government and Montana State legislature have mandated that specific services be made available through the community centers. The present services are inpatient and outpatient care, partial hospitalization, emergency services, screening and evaluation, aftercare, consultation and education, and transitional care. Public law 94-63 adds the following services: programs for children, elderly, drug abusers and alcohol abusers.

The Bureau of Mental Health agrees with the LFA in assessment of the total costs of providing the twelve services in the five centers for the 78-79 biennium:

LFA	\$12,323,991 for 12 services
Bureau	\$11,791,696 for 12 services

The Bureau of Mental Health sees this as a current level service budget, one that is just keeping up with what has been started or will be started this year to comply with the new federal mandates.

Total 1978 program requests are:

Region I	\$927,398
Region II	1,287,448
Region III	1,513,537
Region IV	944,409
Region V	805,039
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	\$5,477,831

Total 1979 program requests are:

Region I	\$1,068,305
Region II	1,483,758
Region III	1,743,889
Region IV	1,088,447
Region V	947,822
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	\$6,313,865

Biennium total is \$11,791,696.

Frank Lane, director of MHC-Region I, said they have two transitional care units, but need four. Six would be the best. They serve 17 counties and there is some necessary duplication of services because of this large distance. He discussed the growth of his region and the heavy demands for their services. They feel they have been effective in keeping inappropriate people out of institutions. The present ratio is 1 admission for 5 discharges.

Mr. Lane said Region I has been in operation for ten years. Two of their federal grants ran out during the last biennium and reserve funds were used to cover this loss. They are applying for a federal distress grant, but these are hard to obtain and each year decrease in amount. These are one year grants.

Erin Crandall, director of MHC-Region II, said they have four 1-man centers and are hopefully looking for more staff in some of these places. Their most pressing need is halfway houses for WSSH patients. They hope to place 22 people with the Salvation Army. They need 4 transitional halfway houses at an estimated cost of \$320,000 to obtain them, not considering money to run them.

Dr. Bryce Hughett, director of MHC-Region III, said their regional needs have increased and the three group homes they operate are not sufficient. At least one more has to be started soon. The operating costs are included in their budget request. They have committed a large portion of their reserve funds for the purchase of this fourth home. There is no way these reserve funds could be available for operating expenses. Mr. Powers agreed with this.

Clyde Cromwell, chairman of the board of Region III, said his board has a resolution that the reserve funds were to be retained for expansion purposes and also in case of temporary financial delays. They have committed \$140,000 for property purchase and are not available to apply against the budget. These funds were accumulated over a long period of time and consist of fees and insurance payments.

Mr. Powers said that of the \$990,638 in reserves, it is anticipated that \$568,638 will be used by centers in FY-77 for operational expenses, invested in land or facility purchases or capital expenditures. The \$422,000 balance carried into FY-78 should be available as a contingency reserve during that year.

It appears that there is very little chance of immediate federal funds becoming available for the centers, but within the biennium it is anticipated that \$880,000 can be obtained in conversion grants and \$400,000 in distress grants.

The Bureau of Mental Health has presented a current level budget that encompasses a biennium general fund request for \$5,948,455.

With regard to the Yellowstone Boys Ranch, \$100,000 is requested. They are setting up a number of group homes and a 30-day assessment center. They provide intensive care for boys.

Chairman Gerke said that adjustments should be made with regard to WSSH patients who received aftercare services from community centers, while not being covered by WSSH funds for these services.

The center directors were asked for their opinion on the alcohol and drug programs:

Clark Anderson of Region V said he believed that these programs should be more centralized for better administration.

Frank Lane of Region I said they elected to hire a coordinator to work with the ten county counselors of the alcohol and drug program.

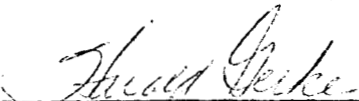
Mr. C. J. Harrington, director of Region IV, said they have combined mental health and alcohol and drug programs and it is working well. In some cases, patients need more than one service.

John Nesbo, chairman of the board of region II, said his board has hired a coordinator for the alcohol and drug program. There is a division between mental health and these programs, but they are both available in their region.

Dr. Huggett, director of Region III, feels there is a need for those programs, but further development is needed. He does not agree with the AA approach.

There was a discussion held on the personal possessions of the patients from WSSH and also transferring of records. They feel there could be some improvement in these areas.

Hearing closed at 10:00 a.m.



Harold Gerke, Chairman