

for Council

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

March 15, 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
Senator Mark Etchart
Representative Harry Hansen
Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis

Tom Briggs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, was present. Also Larry Zanto, Director of Department of Institutions plus Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning.

The subjects of this session were: GLASGOW AIR FORCE BASE, AFTERCARE and DETENTION HOME/SHELTER CARE PROGRAM.

GLASGOW AIR FORCE BASE

Senator Etchart distributed information on the proposed use of Glasgow Air Force Base for an alcohol long term treatment center similar to Galen. The people in eastern Montana are in need of such a facility, but it would also serve people from all over the state.

It is estimated that \$618,267 would be needed in 1978 and \$572,058 for 1979. There would be 34 beds available in the hospital in the section used for this purpose. This hospital would still be operating an out-patient clinic. They are projecting 50 patients as the maximum population with space for families.

Under Personnel: The personnel category provides for two alcoholic treatment teams, one employed over a period of 12 months and the other for a 6-month period in FY-78. The program also provides for employee counseling for the alcoholic and his family and development of individual physical fitness programs for each alcoholic and his family when they return to their home community.

Under Contracted Services: Medical services are to be contracted to physicians in the Glasgow area. Ancillary Medical Services are to be contracted for Glasgow Deaconess Hospital. (5 nurses and 5 aides)

Psychological and physiological services will be contracted from Region I mental health board. Food services will be contracted from the Mountain Plains Program.

See attached report for further details.

HB 627 was discussed and the possibility of the generated revenues from this bill, if passed, being used to offset general funds at Galen was mentioned. Mr. Zanto requested having this proposal recorded as legislative intent if the bill passes.

AFTERCARE

Aftercare comes under the Corrections Division of the Department of Institutions. During a recent consolidation, the 35 FTE's were reduced to 28 FTE's. There are 23 counselors in Aftercare located all over the state. They spend most of their time traveling. It is their responsibility to follow up on discharges of children or juveniles from community facilities or institutions and also assignments from courts. The estimated case load is 450.

Under Contracted Services, there is \$67,000 for group homes which covers salaries of group parents, medical costs and laundry. There are four of these type homes. There is \$155,000 for room and board for 10 youth guidance homes throughout the state which are private programs.

Under Travel are funds for court hearings. Also some out-of-state traveling to get children.

Under Rent, some of this is for office space. Also group homes.

Under Other, there is \$10,000 allowances for the children. Also \$5400 for tuitions and miscellaneous.

Under Benefits, 7100, this covers support funds to help youths get established on their own.

The grand total requested for FY-78 is \$1,194,840. FY-79 is \$1,227,844.

DETENTION AND SHELTER CARE PLAN

The Appropriations Committee requested this subcommittee to look into this plan. Representative Mike Meloy was present with three witnesses to report on the plan.

Representative Meloy said they first went to the Elected Officials subcommittee with this, but it was decided it should come under the Institutions subcommittee.

He explained that the objectives of the shelter care program are to reduce the number of youth who are inappropriately placed in jail settings and to provide shelter care, which is temporary care (30 days or less) to youth who would otherwise be placed in jail or would be left on the streets or in a destructive home setting.

The total request of general fund dollars is \$28,437 for the 1979 biennium. This will be matched with \$255,934 in Montana Board of Crime Control funds, for a total of \$284,371.

When a youth is referred by the youth court to a shelter care facility or emergency foster home, the youth court will bill the Supreme Court at an average rate of \$15.00 per day in a shelter care facility and \$8.00 per day in an emergency foster home.

If the projections run true, then requests for the 1981 biennium will be approximately \$250,000.

This plan is strongly supported by the courts. The Youth Court is mostly committed toward reducing its jail population and providing services to youth in crisis.

The detention homes are used for placement of children until a decision can be made as to what is best for that child. These are in the larger cities and short term foster care homes will be used in rural areas.

Steve Nelson, Board of Crime Control, said there is a great need for these services. Their objective is to keep youths out of jails, when that is not a suitable detention. They have received many requests to establish such services and are asking for legislative guidance in the plans.

John Wilkinson, program manager of Child and Youth Development Bureau, of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, said they feel this plan will affect about 1/2 of the jail population of youths. This program would only require 1 FTE. The funds would follow the youth. We agree to a sunset clause whereby if the program is not successful at the end of

the biennium, it should not continue. The Youth Court Act states that youths may not be placed in jail if there are alternatives available.

Jeffrey Langan, juvenile probation officer/programmer of the Fourth Judicial District Youth Court, representing Montana Probation Officers Association, said they feel this covers several important areas. They feel youths must be placed where they will receive treatment and services. They are pleased with the Crime Control support in this area. The troubled youths of Montana need something more in terms of shelter care - a security system where someone will be responsive to their needs when they are in crisis.

Representative Meloy said aftercare group homes are for long term use. These detention homes are for short term use until the court can come to a decision for placement. He feels these two should not be mixed. Thirty days is the maximum length of stay in a detention home.

There are five homes now: Helena, Anaconda, Butte, Great Falls and Missoula. There is one proposed in Billings.

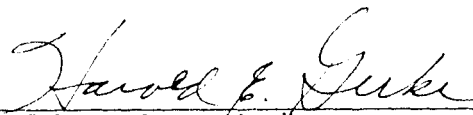
This program is a court system which needs administration services. Perhaps the Supreme Court or the Department of Institutions under Corrections Division.

This was taken under advisement. Mr. Zanto was requested to look into the possibility of handling it under Corrections and report back to the committee.

CENTRAL OFFICE

The budget for Central Office and the four programs under it was discussed.

Session ended at 10:15 a.m.


Harold Gerke, Chairman