

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

March 16, 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 the Department of Institutions, plus Doug Booker and Dave Lewis, Office of Budget and Program Planning. Representative Bardanoue was there for part of the session.

The subjects of this session were: TWIN BRIDGES CHILDREN'S HOME, MONTANA STATE PRISON, DETENTION AND SHELTER CARE PLAN, WICHE, BOULDER RIVER SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL and MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS.

TWIN BRIDGES CHILDREN'S HOME

This subcommittee has received a supplemental request for \$13,729 for maintenance costs for keeping this facility in good repair.

Senator Etchart made a motion to approve this supplemental request. Rep. Ellis seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

MONTANA STATE PRISON

A supplemental request for a total of \$1,391,000 was received for the prison due to population in excess of what was appropriated for and also 80 additional FTE's to keep the old prison open along with the new one. This supplemental request would cover expenses through June 30, 1977.

Representative Hansen made a motion to approve this supplemental request. Senator Etchart seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

DETENTION/SHELTER CARE PLAN

Larry Zanto said his department would need 1 FTE, if this plan was assigned to them, to administer it. \$28,437 is needed to match federal funds of \$255,934 for a total of \$284,371 for the next biennium. It would include a sunset clause.

Tom Briggs said there are other services pertaining to youths and juveniles which are fragmented under various authorities and perhaps should be combined under one authority during the next biennium.

Representative Ellis made a motion to approve this program for \$255,934 federal funds and \$28,437 state match for the next biennium including a sunset clause. Also a survey should be made of the needs for these services and listing all the other similar services available throughout the state. These should be made available to the next legislature. Representative Lund seconded it. The vote was 4 yes with Senator Flynn and Senator Etchart no. Motion carried.

WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION

A request for \$15,000 is requested which would represent Montana's continued support of the WICHE mental health and human service programs. This amount was omitted by the last legislature.

A letter dated February 24, 1977, from Philip Sirotkin, executive director of WICHE in Boulder, Colorado, listed some of the benefits that accrue to Montana by its membership and participation in the WICHE mental health programs. Among other things was WICHE's project designed to bring together state legislators and community-mental-health directors to identify and resolve problems relating to evaluation and accountability. They also held a conference to plan how to administer the new Montana Commitment Act.

This was discussed in detail. Representative Ellis made a motion not to fund this. Representative Hansen seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

BOULDER RIVER SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL

A supplemental request was received for a total of \$420,224 for Boulder River School and Hospital. This would cover the present time through June 30, 1977. It is broken down as follows:

ADMINISTRATION	37,312
CARE AND CUSTODY	360,742
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES	21,476
CANTEEN PROGRAM	694
	<hr/>
	\$420,224

Due to continued higher population, the 1977 appropriated funds are insufficient. Also care and custody and staff have been upgraded.

Tom Briggs said he disagrees that the population and changes justify this large request.

Representative Bardanouve said perhaps region consolidation at WSSH could start immediately so that savings are felt before July 1, 1977. Chairman Gerke agreed with this and said substantial savings should be felt from region consolidation, demolition of certain buildings and consolidation of non-medical services.

Tom Briggs mentioned \$150,000 earmarked revenues in the Boulder budget from 1976 which are unspent. Mr. Zanto said there is a disagreement on the need for the generators at Boulder which is what the money is for. Just recently engineers have been arranged to investigate this. Thus this money should not be moved until a final decision is made. It was Tom's thought that this \$150,000, if not needed for generators, would be reverted and thus offset this supplemental request.

Representative Hansen made a motion to fund the care and custody portion of this request which is \$360,742. Representative Ellis seconded it. It was unanimously carried.

MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

There was a discussion on certain patients transferred from WSSH to community mental health centers after June 30, 1975, for which the health centers did not receive funds. The centers are having to pay all costs for these patients who are scattered out in the different regions. Chairman Gerke said he wanted this looked into to find a way to help the centers on this.

CASH RESERVES:

Tom Briggs said each mental health region was requested to report their cash reserves. This amount does not represent all their reserves. It excludes earmarked funds, gifts, and capital reserve funds.

This cash reserve represents what they have to have to maintain a good cash flow. They have designated 17% of their budget as the necessary amount in this cash account.

Region I	\$170,905
Region II	152,025
Region III	354,988
Region IV	18,419
Region V	96,266
	<hr/> 792,603

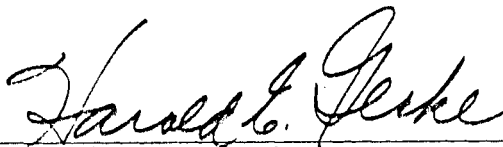
It is LFA's intention to use this \$792,603 for operating expenses. Their justification is HB 289 which sets up the provision that any available funds should be spent before general funds.

Chairman Gerke said considering they are non-profit organizations he questions the legislature's authority to do this. It would also lower their incentive to raise such funds.

Larry Zanto said that these centers have plans to spend this cash account down by July 1, 1977. Therefore, these funds would not be available for operating expenses for the next biennium. He said these funds were raised by the different centers for expansion purposes, capital purchases and to offset lowering federal funding. Also they do need a certain amount for cash flow.

Contracted services were mentioned as a possible way to work with these regional centers.

Session ended at 10:00 a.m.



Harold Gerke, Chairman