

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

March 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 Elmer Flynn
Senator Mark Etchart
Representative Harry Hansen
Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis

Tom Briggs, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, was present. Also Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning, and Representative Bardanoue.

The subjects of this session were: CENTRAL OFFICE, MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, YELLOWSTONE BOYS RANCH, WOMEN PRISONERS and BOULDER RIVER SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL.

MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

Tom Briggs said that the centers have requested a cash reserve of 17% of their total budget. They need this cash account for cash flow because of some lags of federal funds. Instead of basing this percentage on the whole budget, a compromise was reached of 14.3% of their other funds, which works out to be \$422,000, divided among the 5 regions.

Final general fund totals for the mental health centers is \$2,107,366 for 1978 and \$3,066,347 for 1979.

The department and the centers are working out a minimum standard of services to be provided by all centers which will help in future budgeting.

Some more work is needed to resolve some differences between the agency requests and the LFA recommendations. Each region is quite different and there are some differences on the cost per client, which makes budgeting difficult.

Wording is requested in the final budget recommendation which states that to the extent that federal funds are not received as appropriated, a supplemental request could be presented to the next legislature. The burden on the regions will be to justify the need of a supplemental. Identifying costs for services will be necessary.

The mental health centers and bureau grand total is \$2,265,557 and \$3,214,242 for 1978 and 1979. This makes a total of \$5,479,799 for the biennium.

All details will be worked out and Tom Briggs will prepare a committee final action form on this.

CENTRAL OFFICE

The grand totals for the Central Office are \$7,414,740 for 1978 and \$8,384,924 for 1979.

Senator Etchart made a motion to approve this budget. Senator Flynn seconded it. It was unanimously approved.

YELLOWSTONE BOYS RANCH

There is a request for \$200,000 for the Yellowstone Boys Ranch. This is an intensive treatment unit that can replace the adolescent unit at Warm Springs State Hospital. The cost per resident is about \$1400 a month, which is less than at WSSH. The ranch generates other revenues, also.

The original intent was for the WSSH adolescent unit to phase out. This ranch would enable this to be done. They would take both boys and girls. The committee approved this request.

WOMEN PRISONERS

It is felt that there is a problem with relying on other states' housing for the Montana women prisoners. The only state that might possibly be able to take any is Nevada, with a maximum of 5.

The possibility of using the Missoula Ft. Peck facility was discussed. This would house 15.

Most county jails are inadequate or have no room.

Larry Zanto said that \$380,000 for the biennium would be needed for the women prisoners program. This would be for a combination of state contracts and community programs.

RECAP

The committee agreed that the old general hospital at Warm Springs State Hospital should be brought up to life safety standards with the existing funds available for remodeling.

The committee agreed that once the new prison unit is built and the old prison is empty, the prison laundry at the old prison will be discontinued.

The committee agreed that the Mussigbrod Building at Warm Springs State Hospital should be among the buildings to be demolished during the next biennium. This would be under the Long Ranch Building Program.

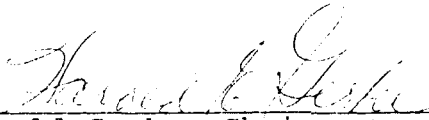
A possibility of having different or marked clothing for prisoners was discussed. Local residents near Deer Lodge have expressed concern of not being able to tell if someone is a prisoner.

BOULDER RIVER SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL

It has now been determined that more space is needed at Boulder. Opening up an older building was discussed. A possible alternative of modular housing was discussed.

This alternative is to purchase 5 modular homes for \$250,000 estimated cost. Each group home would provide 8 certified beds. If eligible patients were housed in these group homes, the certification reimbursement would offset the cost of the homes. If approved, the Purchasing Division of the Department of Administration would put this up for bids to get the best price.

Session ended at 10:00 a.m.



Harold Gerke, Chairman