

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

January 24, 1979 - Room 108

Chairman Dan Yardley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
Committee members present were:

Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis
Representative Pat Gesek
Senator Bill Thomas
Senator Mark Etchart

Testimony was given by Mike Murray, Jim Foley, Peter Blouke, Dave Gilbertson, Nick Cerovski, Larry Zanto, Don Robel, Fred Swain and Curt Chisholm.

Others present were Betty Waugh, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Ted Clack and Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning. See attached Visitors' Register for others present.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

Mike Murray, Administrator of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, gave a presentation on how the division will compensate if their budget is reduced by \$89,000, which is the current estimated error in the amount of revenue that will be generated. Mr. Murray told the committee that the contingency plan could have a maximum error of \$12,000 in the \$89,000 figure. He asked the committee to consider allowing them up to a maximum of \$20,000 that possibly will not be generated, putting the onus on the Department of Institutions, specifically himself, that the earmarked revenue fund authorized by the committee will not and cannot be overspent. Mr. Murray recommended to the committee to keep the proposed \$106,897 in the budget for the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital Chemical Dependency Program. In the division, through vacancy savings that have occurred as a result of the Governor's hiring freeze and through savings that will occur due to the reduced travel budget, they can generate \$29,000. That would leave \$60,000 to be amortized throughout the programs, or roughly each budget addition would be reduced by 30%. He is proposing to reduce two programs: (1) the Big Horn county program, in Hardin, by terminating the division's current contract with them and developing a new contract based on a calendar year. They could save an estimated \$12,000 this fiscal year and (2) the Missoula Indian, Alcohol and Drug Program opened a half-way house which could be closed as of 2/28/79. The division could eliminate the summer school on alcohol studies, reduce the number of training presentations to alcohol programs staff, eliminate all alcohol miniprojects and readjust as soon as they have the county-by-county estimates of the alcohol revenue that was generated at the county level.

Chairman Yardley asked Mr. Murray to provide the committee with a breakdown of proposed reductions. Mr. Murray said he would provide that information as soon as possible.

Center for the Aged

Jim Foley and Peter Blouke, Department of Institutions, Nick Cerovski, Superintendent of the Center for the Aged, and Dave Gilbertson, Business Manager at the Center for the Aged were introduced to the committee.

Mr. Cerovski passed out a handout (see exhibit A) and went over it with the committee.

Dave Gilbertson went over the differences between the agency's and Executive's recommendations for the budget and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's recommendations. The agency is requesting additional staff positions. Those positions include a staff development coordinator, a medical records technician, 6.2 LPNs and the agency is also requesting the establishment of a canteen revolving account. (See exhibit B.)

Personal Services

The LFA recommended the elimination of a .4 FTE in the office area. The LFA also recommended a 15-20% vacancy savings factor based on the savings the agency had realized in FY'78. The agency felt that was not a reasonable percentage to project on a current level budget. The agency/Executive is recommending a 4-6% vacancy savings factor.

Supplies and Materials

The LFA recommended reducing the office supplies and house-keeping supplies by 10% because of the excess inventory left over from FY'78. The agency purchases on an annual-order basis. The LFA recommended switching to a quarterly-order basis which the agency agreed with but said that matter is in the hands of the Department of Purchasing. The LFA also recommended a reduction in meat costs based on the over-purchasing done in FY'78. The agency does not feel that is a justified request.

Travel

The recommended amount by the agency reflects a 22% reduction from FY'78 expenditures.

Equipment

The LFA reported the agency had requested \$79,000 in equipment, FTEs and travel for the operation of a computer. The agency does not have a computer, they have a video terminal. The agency did not request any additional FTEs for this. All of the funds for the terminal's operation are included in the current level operating budget and they are only requesting an inflationary increase over the current level.

Mountain View

Mr. Larry Zanto, Director of Institutions, introduced Mr. Don Robel, Superintendent of Mountain View School, and Mr. Fred Swain, Business Manager of Mountain View School.

Mr. Robel said there was one discrepancy in the proposed budget. An amount of \$16,000, for a contract with the Southwestern Mental Health Center for a psychiatrist, was left out of the budget. Ted Clack, Office of Budget and Program Planning, told the committee that the psychiatrist position had been vacant since the hiring freeze but should have been included in this budget.

Representative Lund asked Mr. Robel why the FTE count had been lowered from the previous years. Mr. Robel told the committee the agency had cut the five houseparents in the boys cottage and one secretary based on the assumption Mountain View would not have the boy's evaluation any more. Representative Lund asked where those evaluations would be done. Ted Clack told him they would have to go to the Great Falls Youth Evaluation Program and to Pine Hills for evaluation. He told the committee that the three evaluation programs were not running at capacity and one of the programs should be deleted.

Curt Chisholm, Department of Institutions, told the committee the Great Falls program was established after the closure of Twin Bridges to evaluate those kids. There are kids that need to be evaluated but do not need to be confined as they are at Mountain View and Pine Hills. Larry Zanto added if the program is eliminated at Mountain View, then it will be up to the courts to decide whether to send the kids to a maximum security program at Pine Hills or a minimum security program at Great Falls.

Montana Children's Center

An executive session was called to act on the supplemental budget.

Chairman Yardley talked about the additional \$20,000 requested for the appraisal of the building so it would be decided what would be

done with that building.

The requested amount of \$50,869 includes the \$20,000 for the appraisal.

The supplemental budget was discussed more and the committee was told of the increase in utilities causing a \$5,000 increase in the utilities budget. The LFA said they would not dispute the budget.

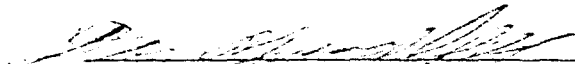
Senator Etchart moved that the committee accept the \$50,869 supplemental budget request. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

Galen State Hospital

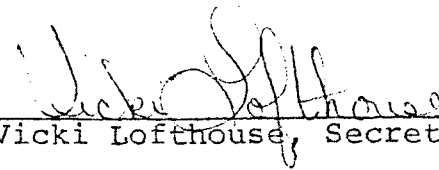
The committee, Executive and LFA discussed the proposed supplemental budget. There was discussion on the increase to cover the heating bill. The Executive increased the budget by \$10,000 to cover that increase, whereas the LFA adjusted other categories to cover that increase.

Representative Lund moved that the committee accept the LFA's recommended budget of \$335,980 and then add the \$10,000 to cover the utility bill making the total budget approved \$345,980. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.



Dan Yardley, Chairman



Vicki Lofthouse, Secretary