

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUB-COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY 29, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Chairman, Steve Waldron with the following members present:

Chairman Steve Waldron  
Senator Gary Aklestad  
Representative Bill Hand  
Representative Robert Marks  
Senator Pat Regan  
Senator Pete Story

Others present were: Dr. A. C. Knight, Director of DHES; George M. Fenner, Administrator of Hospital and Medical Facilities Division; Bob Redpath, Chief of Management Services Bureau; Drew E. Dawson, Emergency Medical Services; W. A. King, Chief of Health Planning & Resource Development; Jacquelin McKnight, Chief Facilities Licensing and Certification Bureau; Ralph Gildroy, Montana Health Agency Systems; Melva Rude, DHES; Warren J. Brass, DHES; Curt Nichols, LFA; Linda Gambill and Ron Weiss, Executive Budget Office.

HEALTH PLANNING

This program is responsible for writing and enforcing the State Health Plan and enforcing the Certificate of Need Law. The program has requested four modifications. The first requested modification is for a facilities inventory. The LFA does recommend this modification, the Executive Budget does not. The second modification is for legal assistance. This is not to hire an attorney, only to pay for the services received from the legal department. The LFA recommended \$46,000 for the modification, the Executive recommended \$148,000. The third modification is a Patient Origin Study. The Executive did budget for this modification, the LFA felt the study was about as complete as it could get and did not recommend funds. The fourth is a more intensive Certificate of Needs Program. The LFA did recommend funds for this program.

The state does put in the minimum amount of money to match the federal funds of about \$400,000. The state must keep a minimum level effort. They cannot appropriate lower than the average of the last three years. The subcommittee discussed what would happen if the average increased. They felt it was necessary to keep the average as low as possible. Fifty thousand dollars does go to the Health Systems Agency. This is a public non-profit corporation which performs health planning services.

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Dr. Knight gave a brief discussion on women in the programs. Senator Regan has expressed concern with the progress the State is making in this area. Dr. Knight handed out a list of women working in the departments with their grades and positions. Senator Regan said she will be interested to see progress again in two years. It was pointed out that hiring did have to come off the State Merit System list.

Wallace A. King, Chief of the Health Planning and Resource Development Bureau, explained that the Health Planning Bureau administers the Certificate of Need law, reviews the Certificate of Need and works closely with health agencies. Several of the programs are contracted out including the Patient Origin Study and health statistics. The Patient Origin Study was first funded by a budget amendment. The study has a 25-75 match with \$90,000 coming from the federal government. They have need for funding for July through October of 1979. The program is almost completed. The program is asking that \$46,000 be taken from the Plant Evaluation Program and added to the Patient Origin Study for completion.

Mr. Warren Brass, spoke on behalf of this program's budget. The program's budget is for \$444,000. They feel this is the least amount of money they can operate on. The LFA Budget recommends \$380,000. Mr. Brass addressed his discussion to the LFA Budget. He felt it was too low. In conclusion he said they could take \$25,000 less than what the Executive Budget recommends; but they need \$30,000 more than the LFA Budget recommends. The program chief also felt they need one more FTE to run a Data Management Program. They are mandated to collect and distribute data. Fifty percent of the \$30,000 would go for salary of the FTE and the rest would fund the program. With the better data service, decisions on certification would be more accurate. The FTE was added by budget amendment two years ago.

The program also requested \$24,000 for travel. The LFA recommended \$19,000. Mr. Brass felt they would need over that amount. They do extensive travel throughout the state for meetings.

#### LICENSING & CERTIFICATION BUREAU

Jacquelin McKnight, Chief of Facilities Licensing & Certification, spoke on behalf of the program. This program has the responsibility to develop and enforce licensing rules and regulations for providers of health care and to investigate any public complaints. They currently license 63 hospitals, 32 nursing homes, 12 free standing intermediate care facilities, (

17 home health agencies and 12 in and/or outpatient mental health clinics. To issue a license it is necessary for the bureau to conduct an onsite visit. One area of concern to the program is the reduction of travel. Because they must make an onsite survey, the travel is essential.

At present one hour of time is reported to the state budget and seven hours of time are reported to the federal budget. At the present, the State general funds are ten percent of the budget. The program would like to request more general fund money as the federal government does not feel the State is taking an adequate portion of the program. The State may have to pay the federal government back if they were ever audited.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

This program was developed by statute to provide statewide medical services. This program which has expanded over the years is responsible for licensing and training ambulance drivers, training of hospital emergency personnel, developing two way communication between hospitals and EMS persons and transferring of patients to care facilities among other things.

Drew Dawson went over several improvements the EMS has made in the last biennium which included improved liaison with statewide medical communities, a new EMT Certification Program and improved training programs.

There are nine FTEs in this program. Six are paid with general funds and three by HEW funds. They lost four FTEs in the past year by the Governor's hiring freeze. Three were funded by HEW and one by general funds. The Billings EMS Office had to be closed this year due to a loss of federal funds. Mr. Dawson really felt the program needed one more FTE to run effectively.

Mr. Dawson briefly explained the EMT Program and how it has developed in the past years. It is now very efficient. They have a practical exam which is very comprehensive. Also special clinics have been held for this training. Trained EMTs do work on training new EMTs.

There are no state funds used for the training programs. There is a budget modification in the Executive Budget to support additional training.

The meeting will continue on these subjects on Friday, February 2, 1979 at 8:00 a.m.



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The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Steve Waldron, Chairman  
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