

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUB-COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY 30, 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 - Came in late.

Others present were: See attached list.

The chairman addressed Dr. John Anderson on calls he has been getting in regards to the Cleft Palate Program for children. There is no truth to the rumors that the sub-committee plans to cut this program out.

HEALTH SERVICES

There are seven programs under this service. Handicapped Children, Maternal & Child Health, Family Planning, Nutrition, Dental, Nursing Services and Administration are the seven.

Linda Gambill, Executive Budget Officer, explained that there is not a lot of difference between budgets. There is a difference in funding sources in Nutrition.

Yvonne Sylva, Administrative Officer for Health Services spoke on the seven programs in a general overview. Five of the seven programs are budgeted at a 80% level for the coming biennium. There has been a decrease in the last year of FTEs. There are increases in several bureaus, but this is due to regrouping of FTEs within the service. For example, the Heart Diagnostic Program was transferred to the Handicapped Children Bureau, so the staff increased. The majority of funds are federal in this program. They are channeled into grants and contracts for provision of direct services at the local level.

Health Services provide preventative, therapeutic and consultative services to mothers, infants and children of Montana. The focus of Maternal & Child Health services is on reducing infant mortality and preventing mental retardation. The program coordinates efforts toward the high risk females to prevent low-birth babies and premature births. The Administrative Bureau of Health Services has in its program

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a legislative mandated program which requires the testing of new born babies for in-born errors in metabolism. This can work in a preventative manner and save lives and money in the future. Family Planning has found out they will have a reduction in federal funds by 20%. SRS has reduced their funds to Family Planning. The Nutrition Program services over ten thousand women and children in the state. They would like to request additional federal authority for the next biennium. They are involved in Day-Care Centers by providing the food for the children. All programs monitor grants and contracts to assure quality care is being provided. The Nursing Service provides in-service activities and training activities to public health nurses in the field. The Dental Program operates a preventative dental program for the children in Montana. Each child receives a tooth brush and is taught how to brush and floss. Reduction in budget could cripple this program.

The testing of new born babies for in-born errors was discussed more thoroughly. The service is asking for \$42,000 to run the program. The cost of laboratory testing has more than doubled in the past year. The LFA does recommend the funding; the Executive Budget does not recommend any general fund money.

#### ADMINISTRATION

This package coordinates the other six programs. It provides management, planning and organizational functions. Fifteen percent of the budget for this package goes to direct public services, the rest goes for administration. It has been funded at the 80% level for the next biennium. The administration package is responsible for the In-born Error Testing Program. This package is also responsible for a data system.

The Administration funds an evaluation team to monitor the programs. With the cut in travel, the division is concerned that the quality of service will suffer in the State of Montana.

#### HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Dee Capp, Chief of the Handicapped Children's Package, spoke about the program. Eligibility is determined from a sliding fee scale. The program helps mostly middle class families who cannot afford the extensive costs of their child's

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disease. Most always there are two parents in the family and the parents work. The program aids children zero through twenty-one. The program is coordinated through the Public Health Nurse. She refers the families to the program. They aid children with a wide variety of diseases including cystic fibrosis and cleft palate. They use the philosophy to help children as early as possible and select a condition that can be repaired so the child has a chance to develop normally. It is very difficult to determine which children need and should receive the aid. Some of the assistance is mandated by legislature for particular diseases such as cystic fibrosis; the decision for the rest is left up to the department.

The Heart Diagnostic Program is also in this package. It was recently transferred to this area. Several FTEs were also transferred to run the program. Ms. Capp was very concerned that the reduction of funds will affect this program. Two FTEs which were cut during the hiring freeze were to be used in this program. One was to be a nutritionist, the other a nurse. The services will also have to be cut if reduction occurs.

If funding is cut back it will also effect the specialty clinics which this package sponsors and it will cut back the amount going out for contracts. It was also pointed out by the division people that last year they did have extra federal funds to fall back on. They will not be available the next biennium.

Another program the Legislature proposes is to aid hemophiliacs obtain blood factor. This would not be possible with present funding. There is no federal money available for such a program. The program would also like to place a Multi-Disciplinary Heart Program in Great Falls.

Virginia Jellison testified on behalf of LIGHT and the Missoula Handicapped Coalition. They are very concerned with the budget cuts. She read two letters asking for continued funding.

Mike Morris from the Comprehensive Developmental Center in Missoula also testified on behalf of the program. CDC does contractual work for the bureau and would experience a 30% cut in program funds. CDC works with handicapped persons giving various services including diagnostic services and clinics. These programs will be cut drastically if funds are reduced. Representative Hand asked Mr. Morris if they were serving people who could serve themselves. Mr. Morris felt that the people they help cannot afford the cost of an expensive illness and keep up normal life.

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The chairman asked Curt Nichols to find out the figures on reduction in clinic dollars.

FAMILY PLANNING

Suzanne Nybo, Chief of the Family Planning Bureau, spoke about the program. She explained the program is concerned with the health education and welfare of women throughout the state. They want to give families the choice of the number of children and the spacing of them. They are aimed at low income women and children. The program is federally mandated.

The program is funded mainly by Title X and Title XX money. General fund money for FY 80 has been recommended at \$42,500 by the LFA and \$37,200 by the Executive Budget Office. A match is required on the Title XX monies of one state dollar to nine federal dollars. Both Title X and Title XX monies are being cut from the program. Title X money has been reduced by 17% at the regional level and 26% at the state level. There is also a chance of a 40% reduction in Title XX funds.

Ms. Nybo was questioned on the program's abortion policy. She stressed that it is not encouraged and they try to educate persons on alternative methods. Ms. Nybo was also questioned on services to minors. She said it varied through the state depending on local law decisions. Most times it is up to the discretion of the doctor.

The program provides such services as cancer screening which includes pap smears and breast examinations, blood tests for rubella, referral for problems, education on contraceptives, VD testing & treatment, and pregnancy tests among other things.

Dr. Bruce McIntyre, Director of the Kalispell Family Planning Project, spoke about the program. He felt the service was much needed and that they improve and maintain women's mental and physical health. Without the program he felt women may go back to illegal practitioners & the mortality rate would rise. If funds are cut, they will probably have to eliminate their syphilis testing program.

Janis Olsen, a participant in the Family Planning Program, spoke on the program's behalf. She read several letters from participants in the program.

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DENTAL HEALTH

Dr. Arthur J. Terrill, Chief of the Dental Health Bureau, explained that dental problems could be eliminated with good preventative dental health programs. At present the bureau has a program in Kalispell for preventative care. When they went to the city in 1974 fifty-six percent of the school children needed dental care, twelve percent needed emergency care. In 1979 only seventeen percent of the children needed dental care. Dr. Terrill requested funding for a program for the entire state. He estimated they would need \$146,000 to start a statewide preventative program. At present they do have a dental hygienist traveling around the state to schools training children, kindergarten through sixth, on brushing and flossing. Dr. Terrill was asked if they were providing services the parents should be providing. Dr. Terrill did not feel this was the case. He felt preventative education would save a great deal of money on teeth in the future.

The funding has been reduced from \$40,000 to \$30,000 because of improvements in the schools. They have also expanded to educate kindergarten children. At present they have three FTEs: a director, a secretary and a dental hygienist. It was suggested that a secretary be used from the pool. At this time it is not possible because he is in a separate building.

NURSING

Althea Ginnibaugh, Chief of the Nursing Bureau, spoke on the Nursing Program. This program gives training and consultation to public health nurses. This includes county health nurses and school nurses. Ms. Ginnibaugh is concerned with the reduction in travel funds. This would greatly affect their travel to aid these nurses in the field especially the in-service meetings and area meetings. They travel about 21 days per month.

There has been a lack of direction in the program because the bureau chief position had been vacant for several months. Also several consultant positions were vacant pending the new chief. They are now getting underway with these programs.

Ms. Ginnibaugh was questioned on contracting out this service. She did not feel the public nurses were qualified.

Edward Mares spoke on behalf of the Nursing Program. Mr. Mares is with the Montana Nurses Association. They support the Nursing Bureau. He felt they provided a supportive need

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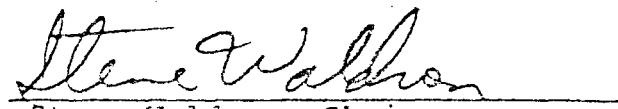
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to the public health nurses. Most of the public health nurses do not have a Bachelor Degree and often need consulting services. He did not feel the bureau duplicated the Nurses Association Program as the Association works mainly with hospital nurses.

The bureaus that have not completed their presentations will finish at 8:00 a.m. on January 31, 1979.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Steve Waldron, Chairman  
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