

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

January 31, 1979 - Room 108

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Etchart. Committee members present were:

Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis
Representative Pat Gesek
Senator Bill Thomas
Representative Dan Yardley (excused until 8:25 a.m.)

Others present included Betty Waugh, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning, Curt Chisholm and Peter Blouke, Department of Institutions. (See attached Visitors' Register for others present.)

People present from Warm Springs State Hospital to give testimony included Dr. James Hamill, Superintendent, Keith Wilson, Fiscal Services Bureau Chief, Dick Moore, Hospital Administrator, Mickey Butorovich, Operations and Support Bureau Chief, and Ray Lappin.

Peter Blouke opened the meeting by giving a brief presentation for Warm Springs State Hospital.

Dr. James Hamill gave some background information about the slide presentation of Warm Springs State Hospital.

The committee watched the slide presentation.

Dr. Hamill told the committee that 3-4 weeks ago, he received notice from the University of Montana that they would no longer be requiring the use of the nurses' dorm at Warm Springs. The staff feels they can transfer most of the patients from the Bolton Building to the dorm. They would put about \$10,000 into the nurses' dorm for remodeling. The remodeling wouldn't meet all the safety codes but would be fine for a temporary location for those patients from the Bolton Building.

Dick Moore told the committee of a study done by the Board of Visitors. He feels that the study will highlight additional treatment and rapid discharge of patients. Warm Springs reverted about \$700,000 back to the general fund. They will also be reverting an additional \$550,000 back to the general fund because of the hiring freeze.

Warm Springs has 50 geriatric patients who are 60 years old and over. Some of those patients, a minimum of 20, should be transferred to a less restrictive setting but there is nowhere to

place them. There are 46 developmentally disabled patients, of which 26-30 could be transferred to a less restrictive setting but, again, there is no place to put them. He recommended to the committee to establish a 400 inpatient basis with a reversion clause. He feels the budget should be based on a variable formula.

One of Warm Springs' main concerns is in the area of therapists. Warm Springs staff disagree with the Executive's recommendations concerning documentation. It is legally required to have written documentaion within 72 hours after the admission of a patient. The staff feels they don't have enough people to take care of that documentation. Another area where the agency and the Executive disagree is in the quality assurance department.

Keith Wilson passed out copies of the proposed biennial budget. (See exhibit B.)

Contracted Services -

All items are needed and some are required for certification.

Supplies and Materials -

The agency does not agree with the Executive's recommendation for the sewing room and laundry budget. The agency feels the Executive might not have taken into account the fact that Warm Springs will be doing all the laundry for Galen and Montana State Prison.

Communications -

All costs are pretty much fixed with the exception of advertising. At the beginning of the next biennium, the agency feels they can start rehiring for the vacancies from the hiring freeze. They will be advertising on a national basis.

Travel -

Administration should be able to participate in educational workshops. A lot of money is needed for patient transportation because Warm Springs is in such an isolated area.

Rent -

Data Processing is the most costly item.

Utilities -

The agency can only guess what utilities will run.

Repair and Maintenance -

A lot of the expense is for the maintenance contracts on the equipment the agency owns. This budget does not include the \$10,000 to remodel the nurses' dorm.

Equipment -


There is an additional list of equipment if the funds are available. (See exhibit A, Equipment Section.)

A question and answer period then followed. Some of the questions asked by committee members were concerning the population in the Bolton Building; if Warm Springs paid Galen for the patients they had at Galen; patient cost per day and year; if there was a noticeable energy savings since the demolition of the buildings at Warm Springs; and if there are any unoccupied buildings that are being heated. Rep. Ellis asked what the vacancy savings was for last year and Mr. Wilson told him about 1.2 million. Chairman Yardley asked what the patient-staff ratio was. Mr. Moore told him about 280 patients to 488 staff employees. Chairman Yardley asked about the direct care patient-staff ration. Mr. Moore told him it was approximately 369 patients to 331 staff employees. The purchase of the 45 passenger bus was discussed.


Chairman Yardley asked Mr. Butorovich if the Bolton Building would be demolished. Mr. Butorovich said no, the building would be good for storage or classrooms. Chairman Yardley asked if there was a possibility that the University of Montana would want that building back. Dr. Hamill said that could happen but he doubted it.

Chairman Yardley asked about federal funding for the Vo-Ed programs. Mr. Moore told the committee the agency gets federal funding from Title I, and that the agency now does not receive school lunch money but they could identify about 30 patients that would be eligible.

Chairman Yardley adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.



Dan Yardley, Chairman



Vicki Lofthouse, Secretary