

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

AGENCY I

JANUARY 31, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 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: Mary A. Musil, MCH Bureau, DHES; Althea Ginnbaugh, Nursing Bureau, DHES; Fay Sweeney, MCH Bureau, DHES; John S. Anderson, M.D., Health Services Division; Bob Redpath, DHES; Robert L. Solomon, DHES; Yvonne Sylva, Administrative Officer for MCH; Hendrika VanDrunen, M.D., Maternal and Child Health Services; Dee Capp, DHES, Ruth Simerly, HDES; Arthur C. Knight, M.D.; Donna Muffick, DHES; Diane Metcalf, Center for Handicapped Children.

Chairman Waldron informed the subcommittee that Senator Regan, Representative Hand and he had met with Mr. George Bousliman, Director of OBPP, and discussed the possibility of combining Emergency Medical Services and Civil Defense. Mr. Bousliman has checked into the matter and doesn't feel it is possible.

Senator Regan stated that she has been getting phone calls from people indicating the budget shows a cut for handicapped children. The budgets recommended are essentially the same. What has happened is that last year they received extra federal money which they will not receive this year. Chairman Waldron told the subcommittee that he has checked into this and Yvonne Sylva will explain it further.

Yvonne Sylva, Administrative Officer for MCH, spoke on the problem. She explained that a decision was made to expand the Heart Diagnostic Center in Great Falls, MT. This expansion of service would allow more children to be evaluated and to receive follow-up care. They felt because of the geographical location it was very accessible. The expansion cost would be about \$33,380 with two staff physicians. This will take money away from the Comprehensive Development Center in Missoula.

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In the Handicapped Children's budget, there is a source of revenue listed as fees in the amount of about \$17,000. This should be reduced to \$11,000. Several years ago the hearing program provided direct audiological services and charged a fee. This activity has ceased and by mistake has continued to show as a source of revenue on the budget. This is also true in the Nursing Program and the Dental Program; \$2,500 in each program shows fees as a source of revenue. When Ms. Sylva discovered there weren't any fees available, she made an appropriate adjustment in her own budget and also in the state-wide accounting system to reflect the non-availability of these funds.

Chairman Waldron concluded that if the subcommittee wanted to maintain the quality of service within the Comprehensive Development Center in Missoula, they would have to add \$67,000 for the biennium.

Diana Metcalf, Center for Handicapped Children in Billings, stated that their program has a grant of approximately \$45,000. A large proportion of money is from school district monies. Senator Regan was concerned about getting the most services for the money and felt that the extra funds would be better spent in Billings. Dr. VanDrunen felt the program in Missoula is doing an excellent job and should be maintained. Chairman Waldron backed up Dr. VanDrunen's statement and told the subcommittee he felt that CDC provided the best service dollar for dollar.

#### NUTRITION

Helen Gerig, Nutritionist, gave a brief overview of the three programs within this activity package. The three programs are: Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition Consulting Administration; Child Nutrition Program; and the WIC Program which is a special supplemental feeding program for women and children. This program receives the majority of its funding, approximately 99.86%, from federal dollars.

The MCH-Nutrition Consulting Administration Program is responsible for making sure nutrition programs are incorporated into all the health services provided for women and children. They consult with the Nursing Bureau and aid the Handicapped Children's Bureau among other agencies. They also provide training, information and consultation to the private sector.

The Child Nutrition Program is funded by the USDA. This program allows the state to work closely with the day care centers where

a majority of the needy children are found. The program reimburses part of the cost of providing nutritious meals in the day care centers in approximately twenty-five counties. They serve 4,200 children per day and feel the need is still greater. They feel they help provide the proper nutrition while helping the providers keep their rates down. They also believe that the Nutrition Program is an incentive for unlicensed day care centers to become licensed. They also are able to identify health and nutrition related problems such as anemia.

The WIC Program is responsible for improving the health of the pregnant and nursing mothers, infants and children up to the age of five years who are high risk. They do this through the following methods: 1) Identify the problem; 2) Develop a plan based on the problem; 3) Provide supplemental foods through a voucher form in the markets and 4) Encourage and ensure that the client is getting into the Nutrition Program. They have found with this program that many pregnant women come in earlier for prenatal care and they are able to identify problem areas faster.

Senator Story expressed concern that perhaps the Centralized Service in this area was overstaffed. He inquired what the match was and what the money is doing. The fiscal analysts will look into it.

Several individuals explained to the subcommittee that the program expansion is often due to federal regulations which they are required to do. Many times the regulations are designed for urban areas and don't fit Montana's needs. Also it was explained that there are many different projects in this division which require a project manager.

Helen Gerig told the subcommittee that the program needed food authorization in the amount of 6.3 million dollars the fiscal year 1980 and 6.94 million dollars in FY 81. This authorization is divided between WIC and the Child Nutrition Program. The LFA recommended \$5,000,000 per year. This was done because in previous years a seven million dollar authorization was given and they only received three million dollars. If more federal money comes in they can always go for a budget modification for the spending authority. The Executive Budget Office recommended around 5.3 million dollars and agreed with the LFA that the spending authority should be kept somewhere around what they are projected to receive. The OBPP had not heard about the increase need for food authorization.

Mary Musil explained the growth of the program. The more licensed day care centers they become involved with, the

more federal money is available for food reimbursement. Senator Regan pointed out that with the proposed change of funding within the Day Care Program the amount of children may drop. She suggested that the subcommittee could line-item the authority only for the food reimbursement or the department could come back in and request a budget modification. Yvonne Sylva explained that there are four separate accounts in this program which must be kept separate and the subcommittee may have to consider this if they decide to line-item. The OBPP and the LFA will get together and figure something out.

Chairman Waldron pointed out that there are three areas of concern in this program. The first is the decrease in travel funds. Helen Gerig explained that for each program they are federally mandated to monitor activities, provide training and provide assistance to the local levels. They have over fifty WIC sites, seventy-five child care sites and thirty-five other sites with an expected increase. A minimum of 270 visits per year would just meet the federal mandate. The program people did not feel they could get by with the recommended travel allowed in the OBPP budget. Ron Weiss explained that at the Governor's direction they took the 1978 actual travel and decreased it by 15%. It was their feeling they could reprioritize the budget if they felt the travel was necessary. The chairman asked the LFA to get together with the agency and see if the federal and state regulations require the 270 visits and if so will the funding be adequate to do the traveling.

The second concern the agency had was with regard to the equipment funding. The agency had requested \$1,260 in line-iteming for equipment. The money is used to pass through to the local WIC offices for office and medical equipment to run their program. Federal funds can be used for the equipment. Ron Weiss explained that the OBPP budget had recommended \$200. They had been instructed by the Governor that anything over \$200 had to have a listed justification which they never received from this agency. He didn't think they could go in with a budget amendment later because the OBPP and the Legislature had considered it. Mr. Weiss will do some checking.

The third problem was the limit on the food spending authority which they have already discussed.

#### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

Fay Sweeney, program manager, gave an overview of the program. There are eight services offered in this program to high risk

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mothers, infants and children. These programs include: the Child & Youth Program which provides comprehensive care for children and youth from six weeks to eleven years old; the Maternal and Infant Program which provides comprehensive preventative health services to pregnant women, primarily teenagers; the Teen-Age Pregnancy Project; the Pre-Natal Education Program which is handled at the local level in thirty-one counties; the Well Child Clinic Service which is to maintain well children including screening for handicaps; the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Program which is available for all Medicaid eligibles from birth to 21 years of age; the Infant Child Health Access Program; and the Child Abuse Project. They do team evaluations, consultations and reevaluations on all the programs. This is a grant program wherein grants are given to specific areas throughout the state. The programs are coordinated amongst each other.

#### MANAGEMENT SERVICES

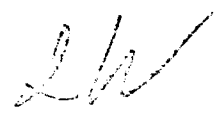
Curt Nichols gave an overview of this service. It consists of the Director, the director's office, public information office, centralized services function, records and statistics which includes the data process system, grants to local health departments in the amount of \$130,000 and rent for the Cogswell Building.

Chairman Waldron pointed out there is a discrepancy in the rent recommendations. The OBPP told the subcommittee they recommended what the department asked for. The LFA recommendation is higher and provides rent for the Cogswell Building. Bob Redpath told the subcommittee they will not be paying for unoccupied space. The LFA was asked to get together with the department people to decide what they were actually paying for.

Senator Aklestad questioned Curt Nichols on the difference between FTE levels. The Executive Budget Office eliminated 2.5 FTEs in the hiring freeze. The LFA did not take these positions; however, he did take a vacancy savings.

There are two modifications recommended by the LFA which were requested by the department. One is for a computer terminal at \$6,000 per year for the SBAS system and \$9,000 for the biennium to up-grade the various data systems they have. These were not requested by the Executive Budget Office. Mr. Redpath explained that the \$6,000 was for access information within the computer. The Executive included the modifications within the current level budget.

John Wilson explained the duties of the Records and Vital Statistics Bureau. They collect statistics on births,



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deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, marital dissolutions, invalid marriages and legally induced abortions. They have three separate systems to collect the data. One is through local registrars, one is through the Clerk of District Court for each county and the third is directly through the office. Another duty is records service. This is where record copies are requested by the public. They charge \$2 per copy which is deposited into the general fund. They return between \$20,000 and \$29,000 per year to the general fund. Mr. Wilson brought before the subcommittee their request for \$100,000 to straighten out their records. It was not included in the department's recommendation. It would be to up-date their index system on birth records. Mr. Wilson was requested to send a letter to the subcommittee to justify the request. The last activity they handle and the most important is the statistical reporting - making use of the information collected.

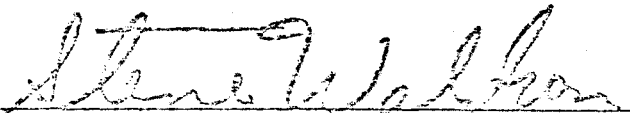
Curt Nichols explained that 13 of the 36 FTEs in this division are in this bureau.

Ruth Simerly, Head of the Information Unit, gave the subcommittee an overview of the program using an information sheet. The Information Unit is in charge of keeping the public informed on the programs and activities that the State Health Department has, as well as preparing and distributing information about environmental matters and health concerns. Some of the information put out is required by law. They utilize wire services and about 150 newspapers throughout the state. They also participate in workshops. Dr. Knight spoke on behalf of the program saying it was a very viable function.

Dr. Knight explained that there is a problem with the FTE level. Ruth Simerly, Chief of the Information Unit, ended up being a half FTE. Now however, the information clerk-typist is retiring so they would like to make Ms. Simerly's job a full-time position, make the clerical position half-time and then pool secretarial services with the Dental Health Bureau. Mr. Redpath noted that there will be funding problems because of the difference in grades.

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

Respectfully submitted:

  
Steve Waldron, Chairman  
Approved