

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

AGENCY I

FEBRUARY 2, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Steve Waldron with the following members present:

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

Senator Pat Regan - excused

Others present were: Drew Dawson, DHES; George M. Fenner, DHES; Jackie McKnight, DHES; Charles F. Stohl, DHES; Bob Redpath, DHES; Dr. Arthur C. Knight, Director of DHES; Curt Nichols, LFA; Ron Weiss, OBPP and Mike Roach, Chief of the Air Quality Bureau.

Chairman Waldron told the subcommittee that Mr. Harold Fryslien had replied to a letter from him questioning the legality of transferring funds within the department. They do not feel it is illegal and suggested that if the LFA does he contact the Legislative Auditors Office.

Mike Roach, Chief of the Air Quality Bureau, was asked to clarify the Poplar River project. It is a baseline study program with special funding from Congress to the state. It was designed to get background values on physical factors in the area. The Air Quality Division did do a study on the air quality and the amount of contaminants in the soil. They will keep that on record and perhaps study the soil and air again in three years after the plant is in effect. The EPA did not feel there was sufficient evidence to prohibit the 300 or the 600 megawatt plant in Canada. They therefore went ahead and did more complete studies on vegetation, health and meteorology among others. Although they can't stop the construction, they are under treaty for water quality and the US is eligible for recompense if there are damages.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BUREAU

Drew Dawson, Chief of the EMS Bureau, summarized the differences between the budgets. Mr. Dawson explained that the OBPP budget was not sufficient to operate. They had requested \$209,000 in general funds. The OBPP recommended \$183,000 in general funds.

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They felt the LFA budget at \$204,000 general funds was more in line with their previous spending. On the other hand, the LFA recommendation for federal spending authority is less. They expect about 40 to 50 thousand dollars more in grant money than they have authorized. In this case they feel the OBPP recommendation is more in line with the actual expenditures.

The OBPP has recommended a \$25,000 per year budget modification for EMT training programs. There was a problem with individuals not passing the practical test for EMT. They have tried to up-grade training and the budget modification is an attempt to further up-grade the skills training with better opportunity for training instructors. The bureau lost one FTE in the freeze funded with general fund money. Three were lost which were funded by federal funds. The bureau is asking the subcommittee for one more FTE to assist with the EMT certification and training program.

FACILITIES LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION BUREAU

Jacquelin McKnight, Chief of this bureau, explained that the bureau has 1.57 FTEs. She told the subcommittee that the decrease in budget would effect their budget by about \$11,000 per biennium. This would mainly be in operating expenses and primarily in travel. The reduction in travel money will effect the surveyor staff which needs to report on field activities in state licensure. The loss may cause future audit exceptions. The federal government may say the state is not providing its' fair share of surveying activities.

The surveyors go into facilities and survey it for compliance with state and federal licensing requirements as a provider under Medicare and/or Medicaid. This includes hospitals and nursing homes.

Senator Aklestad inquired why EMS couldn't be combined with Civil Defense. Chairman Waldron reviewed the meeting with George Bousliman, State Budget Director. Mr. Bousliman did not feel it was feasible at this time. Drew Dawson agreed and felt that EMS dealt mainly with medical areas and should be in the Department of Health.

Mr. George M. Fenner, Administrator for Hospital & Medical Facilities Division, reminded the subcommittee there are two bureaus within the division. By combining budgets, the fiscal officers seem to be making one bureau suffer to off-set the

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other. They should be looked at separately.

Mr. Dawson told the subcommittee that the LFA budget is close to meeting their needs at a current level. However, they would like the requested level. They would also like the requested budget amendment.

Senator Story mentioned that during the testimony for lab services, division members felt a need for an administrator. Dr. Knight told the subcommittee that although a lab administrator would be good, a deputy director would be better for the department. The chairman expressed concern about the deputy director position and felt there was a need for it. Dr. Knight explained what a deputy director would do if they were given one. Chairman Waldron summarized by saying they need a deputy director with a fiscal background with administrative skills so Dr. Knight can be freed to concentrate on his professional background, medicine.

CENTRAL SERVICES DIVISION - Management Services

Bob Redpath, Administrator for Central Services, explained that all bureaus except Management Services had been discussed the day before. He introduced Mr. Charles F. Stohl, Chief of the Management Services Bureau. Mr. Stohl told the subcommittee that all money that comes in or out of this department comes through this bureau. They are responsible for tracking all funds and auditing all funds. There are 10.4 FTEs in this bureau. They are also responsible for inventory control and purchasing.

Dr. Knight listed the priorities for this department. Within Health Services he ranked Maternal and Child Health first and Communicable Diseases second. He then listed Handicapped Children, Family Planning, Hospital Facilities and Emergency Medical Services. He thought Administration would be next and then lower down would be Dental Health, Nursing Services and Nutrition.

Chairman Waldron noted that perhaps more should be used for preventative measures rather than cure.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. A tour of the lab was taken.

Respectfully submitted:


Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved