

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

February 9, 1979 -- Room 108

Chairman Yardley called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Representative Pat Gesek was excused for the day. Other committee members present were:

Representative Art Lund
Representative Howard Ellis
Senator Bill Thomas
Senator Mark Etchart

Others present included Betty Waugh and John LaFaver, Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office, and Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning. See attached Visitors' Register for others present.

Mental Health Centers

Peter Blouke, Department of Institutions, gave some background information concerning the functions of the Community Mental Health Centers. The mental health centers are not state agencies; in fact, the state is a minority funder of the community mental health centers. He passed out a report prepared by the Montana Community Mental Health Centers in cooperation with the Department of Institutions. (See exhibit A.) He went over the handout for the committee members.

Mr. Blouke passed out copies of the Mental Health Centers' budget requests to the committee members and went over that information with them. (See exhibit B.)

Mary North, representing Region III Mental Health Center, gave a presentation, which included a slide presentation, on her center. She told the committee members that three out of the five mental health centers are facing the loss of federal support equaling 1-1.5 million dollars. With that loss of federal revenue, the total funding levels will not be sufficient to maintain current levels of services. The ability to respond to people before an emotional problem becomes a serious crisis is going to be reduced which will result in increased admissions to Warm Springs State Hospital.

Bill Warfield, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Region IV Mental Health Center also gave a presentation concerning Montana's mental health centers.

Clark Anderson, Executive Director of Region V Mental Health Center, gave testimony in support of the centers. He told the committee

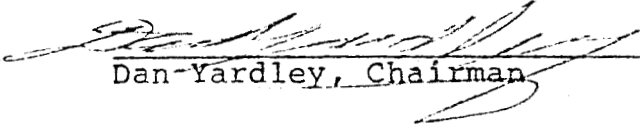
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his office is one of the three centers without federal funding now. By July 1, 1979, the Region V center will anticipate a deficit of \$160,000 to maintain current program levels. He told the committee the centers cannot survive on the LFA and Governor's recommendations for the budget. There will be a big reduction in the programs.

A question and answer period then followed the presentations by representatives of the mental health centers.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.


Dan Yardley, Chairman


Vicki Lofthouse, Secretary