

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUB-COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

FEBRUARY 15, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Pete Story with the following members present:

Senator Gary Aklestad
Representative Bill Hand
Representative Robert Marks
Senator Pat Regan
Senator Pete Story

Chairman Steve Waldron - Excused

Others present were: See attached list.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Curt Nichols, LFA, introduced the program. This is a priority budget. The bureau provides funding for such programs as Big Brothers and Sisters, foster parent training, achievement homes, Family Teaching Center and 4-C's. The total figures between the LFA & Executive are very close. The major differences are in the allocations. The LFA recommended local funding for the Family Teaching Center in the amount of 25%. The Executive Budget recommended eliminating the Helena Achievement Center.

Linda Gamble, OBPP, spoke on the priority budget system. There are seven activity packages in the bureau. The OBPP did recommend the deletion of the Helena Achievement Home due to a problem with occupancy rate. The Montana Youth Justice Council also recommends closure. This closure recommendation for February 28, 1979 has not yet been accepted by the department.

Charlie McCarthy, Chief of the Child & Youth Development Bureau, spoke on the program. He explained that the bureau works with agencies that serve youth. They do not directly service children; they work mainly with the providers and policy makers. Their main involvement is with planning and program development. They have put out several surveys such as "Youth Needs in Montana", "Consumer Survey" and a booklet on drug and alcohol abuse by youth. These published surveys and booklets are free upon request and were done with contracted funds. There was no state money. They do some recruitment for Day Care and also work with the Youth Justice Council. Seventy-five percent of the funding is federal Title XX money. Twenty-five percent is state or other match. The state match is used only for Title XX clients.

Senator Story questioned Mr. McCarthy regarding the Family

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Teaching Center. He wondered if they taught parents parenting skills. The center does work with parents teaching skills. Approximately four hundred people receive this help. Approximately one thousand children receive direct services along with indirect services through child abuse programs and parent aid. The Executive Budget provides for 16.75 FTEs and the LFA provides 17.4 FTEs. The difference comes from .5 FTEs eliminated by the Executive during the hiring freeze.

Dr. Donald E. Espelin, a family physician, spoke on behalf of the Family Teaching Center. The program is active in preventative care and acts as a demonstration program for others. They do teach parents skills to aid in family living. They give intensified counseling and do not duplicate services of social workers.

Joe Mazurek, Chairman of the Board for the Family Teaching Center and the Helena Achievement Place, spoke on behalf of the programs. He felt the programs were models for other communities and urged the subcommittee to consider the programs.

Senator Regan had concerns over a training and evaluating program contracted and done by the Family Teaching Program for Big Brothers and Sisters. She had several complaints that the state was using a training program which they did not want. Linda LeFavour, Representative Jonas H. Rosenthal and Jim Knight all explained to Senator Regan that at first they were upset; but after the workshop, felt the training was very valuable and worthwhile.

Dr. Steven Szykula, Director of the Family Teaching Center, spoke on the program stressing that its goal is to avoid institution placements and to maintain family ties. They use a sliding fee scale based on income and size of family. They do receive some funds from the local community and from fees.

Judy H. Griffin, a former user of the Family Teaching Center, spoke on its behalf. She felt that it helped her family through a potential crisis with direct aid to the family. She felt the program was flexible and offered many alternatives to families. It takes into account individual family problems, a factor most agencies do not have the time to do.

Dale E. Parsons, Family Consultant with the Family Teaching Center, also told the subcommittee that the goal was preventative. He also urged support of the program.

Joy McGrath, a member of the Board of Directors, and Ellen Hendrickson, Public Health Nurse, also asked for support of

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the program.

Representative Jonas Rosenthal, Linda LeFavour and Jim Knight, all active in the Big Brothers and Sisters Program, gave testimony in support of funding. The program aids young adults trying to provide an adult model they can relate with. Dick Meeker, a local probation officer, also spoke on the merits of the program.

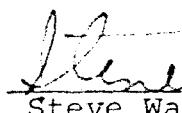
Mildred Wehrman; Jan Watson; Jim Mallard, Montana Coalition for Human Services; Cathy Campbell, and Judy Wing gave testimony in support of the Montana Day Care Association. This program provides direct services to Day Care providers, both profit and non-profit. They feel Day Care providers impact children's formative years and should be well prepared. Their goal is to provide safe and happy environments for every child in Montana.

Clyde Muirheid, Director and teacher from the Helena Achievement Place, and Cathy Kendall, social worker, spoke on behalf of the Helena Achievement Place. The program attempts to help youth who have alienated themselves from their parents. They work on helping the child to adjust to home life. It is directed at teen-age girls. There is no other such program in the state and if it is eliminated these girls would have to go out of state with little family training. Lyle Masoro a parent with a child in the home asked the subcommittee to continue funding.

Senator Regan raised questions on the 4-C's program. She wondered why these services couldn't be provided by a corporation. Pat Wall, Helena Director of 4-C's and Judy Wing, Missoula Director of 4-C's, spoke on the program. The function of the program is to provide assistance with Day Care operators. They supply information regarding licensed Day Care operators and run several child abuse programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Repectfully submitted:



Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved

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