

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

AGENCY I

FEBRUARY 19, 1979 - SRS AUDITORIUM

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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: See attached list.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Developmental Disabilities Program is responsible for development and funding of the community programs for the developmentally disabled, primarily mentally retarded. The LFA recommended funding at the 1979 level with a 7-1/4% and 6-3/4% increase to allow for costs. Additional money has not been added for additional clients. The LFA has concerns about service expansions as some of the programs are transitional, clients die or go into other programs or become independent. This should help absorb new clients. Special education is mandated to serve the 3-5 and 18-21 year old children in the next biennium. The LFA is not sure what impact there will be on the DD Program. This program funds DD training which is responsible for training staff and providers. The recommendation of the LFA is for \$300,000 for FY 80 and \$200,000 for FY 81. The LFA feels that as the program stabilizes, training should be able to decrease.

Ron Weiss explained the differences between the LFA budget and the Executive budget. The primary difference is that the Executive budget recommends \$150,000 of general fund money to provide seed money to assist the program in removing clients from Boulder. They have also included some Title XIX Medicaid money, about \$500,000 per year, to allow the department to try some different funding methods for nursing homes. The Executive budget also includes \$327,000 a year for training. (Sub-part H of Title XX).

Jim Meldrum, Chief of the Resource & Planning Bureau, spoke on the Developmental Disabilities Program. He explained that they are responsible for fiscal type matters, development

of standards, improvement of client tracking, invoicing system and budget preparation. The office is divided into three units: the Administrative Office; Fiscal, both budgetary and monitoring; and Programmatic and Training. There are thirteen employees in the state office, ten professional and three secretarial.

Mr. Meldrum spoke on the Title XIX funding. There are 156 clients who are residing in nursing homes throughout the state. Their residential services are paid by Title XIX funds. Title XX money is used for their day care services. The department would like to take \$500,000 from the Title XX monies which is now general fund money and transfer it to Title XIX money to get more federal match. Title XX is already at its limit and is now using more general fund money. Keith Colbo added that they are still considering using some Title XIX for group homes.

Ken Gossett, Chief of Client & Community Services Bureau, spoke on behalf of the program and gave a brief overview of the Developmentally Disabled Program for adults and children. There are 134 contracts for services under this division. There are sixty provider agencies. Eighty-four percent of the total budget goes into direct services. They service 1508 developmentally disabled adults and children. They serve 974 adults in two types of programs. Day training and residential care. They also provide transportation. They have two goals: 1) To give services to those who can develop into independent living situations and 2) Provide training and residential help for those who cannot live by themselves. They also serve 578 children and their families. The goals with regard to children include: 1) Help maintain the child in the natural or foster family and 2) Provide assistance to families in developing the child's potential. The bureau works to insure cost efficient and cost effective programs.

The goals for the bureau itself are to help strengthen DD management and to continue the deinstitutionalization program. They have approximately 240 people on a waiting list to get community services. Their major goal is to continue to provide services.

Mr. Gossett addressed himself to the LFA's recommendation to cut down on training. Mr. Gossett felt that because of the high turnover rate and the geographical locations that the training is necessary. There seems to be a burn-out factor involved in the provider staff turnover rate. He also pointed out that their requested budget for training is about 1/2 of the original training budget.

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Mr. Keith Colbo, Director of SRS, explained to the subcommittee some of the other problems to consider. This year the department has received 122 court orders to remove individuals from Boulder River School and place them in an alternative type of living. Plus that the department has identified 44 other persons who could live outside of Boulder. The 122 court orders were done randomly and the department does not feel all the orders are appropriate. They will contest some of the orders. Also there are people on waiting lists to be served by this program. Chairman Waldron brought out also there is a possibility that the population at Boulder may increase.

Chairman Waldron discussed the audit for this division. There seemed to be many problems including contract management problems. The department was providing emergency grants for group homes that overspent their budgets and also it pointed out some criminal activities. Mr. Colbo told the subcommittee that all the criminal activities are followed up in the appropriate manner. He said that now he goes over every contract; however, there is too much money, too many services and too many providers not to have some problems.

The hearing was opened for public testimony.

Aage Hansen, Association for Developmentally Disabled, read a statement for the subcommittee. (Statement is attached.) He stressed that the division needed more than a 6% increase. An 8% increase would be more appropriate. Mr. Hansen pointed out to the subcommittee that HB 624 is proposing to eliminate 3-5 and 18-21 year olds from the Special Education Programs. This would increase the number of children the DD Program would have to serve. Mr. Hansen also suggested that long range planning be taken into account.

Representative Les Hirsch who has been a board member for the Eastern Montana Industries encouraged the subcommittee to fund the service the best possible. Senator Ed Smith, DD Council and the Executive Committee, spoke on behalf of the DD Program. He told the subcommittee that the grass roots support is needed. Representative Ann Mary Dussault told the subcommittee that there will have to be a decision if the Legislature wants to continue deinstitutionalization or cut it off. She felt that deinstitutionalization was necessary. Ms. Dussault felt that Boulder should be discontinued if possible. She related a personal experience within her own family as an example. She felt the state cannot continue to support two separate types of systems. She was asked if perhaps nursing homes could be utilized for some clients. Ms. Dussalt did not feel nursing

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homes provide adequate training for clients to become self sufficient.

Jill Rohyans, Region IV DD Council and parent; Vonnie Koenig, Region V DD Chairman and parent; Art Kienas, Region V Vice Chairman and parent; Art Zodi, State DD Council and parent; Shirley Ramer, Parent and Adult Easter Seal Center; Margaret Auer, parent; Florence Lucas, parent and Region V Council; Don Reed, Montana Association for Retarded Citizens; Ted Horras, Easter Seal Society; Dana Urton, Region II Advocacy; Helen DeShazo, parent; Thelma Moody, parent; Kenneth A. Rohyans; Sharon Thurston, Region IV DD Council; and Bill Smith spoke in support of the wonderful programs that DD sponsors. They felt deinstitutionalization was very important.

Mike Jakupcak, State Developmental Disabilities Council, supported the DD Program. He advised the subcommittee that in October of 1978 the federal DD bill was amended. The new guidelines set by the federal government will increase the number of people eligible for the DD Program. He also stated it would be wise to look at the plan which is done with cooperation from the local level. Mr. Chuck Super, Billings Regional Services for the Disabled, told the subcommittee that the training is needed especially for group home supervisors. There is a burn-out factor and they need the training to keep a high rate of service. Vonnie Koenig read letters from individuals in support of the program. Florence Lucas gave several letters to be included in the record. Rick Carpenter and Rynie Pesaheh both from the Boulder School and now living in group or individual homes spoke on behalf of deinstitutionalization. Mike Morris from CDC in Missoula spoke on behalf of the training program. Mrs. Bompert, Park Side Mannor, spoke about the nursing home capabilities to handle the disabled. Ted Maloney, Family Out-Reach, pointed out that no one had mentioned the new born babies in the next year who would need assistance. Bill Irvin, former operator of a group home, pointed out that medical problems arise in group homes that group home parents are not trained to handle. This training should be included in their curriculum.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved