

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

AGENCY I

FEBRUARY 28, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Steve Waldron with the following members present:

Chairman Steve Waldron  
Senator Gary Aklestad  
Representative Robert Marks  
Senator Pat Regan  
Senator Pete Story

Representative Bill Hand - excused

Others present were: Keith Colbo, Director of SRS; Ben Johns, Deputy Director of Administration; Ron Weiss, OBPP; and Curt Nichols, LFA.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Chairman Waldron brought the attention of the subcommittee to the Chronic Renal Unit. The options are to make a decision on the funding or recommend a bill to the full committee to move the program to the Department of Health. Mr. Colbo had no problems with the proposal, he just questioned the value of such a move. Right now it does utilize some federal funds; if moved it would be straight general funds. Ron Weiss told the members that one risk was the federal government auditing the program and taking funds away because the unit is not really a Voc-Rehab program. Curt Nichols explained that SRS utilizes approximately 1.34 FTEs with the unit; however this is a joint effort by many different FTEs. The subcommittee decided to leave the unit where it was for the time.

In Voc-Rehab the LFA did not allow for expansion as Mr. Nichols felt it had many problems as shown by the audit. He felt if they worked on the problem areas and straightened out difficulties they would have sufficient funding for new clients. The Executive Budget Office did allow for a higher case load. They also forgot to put the Workers' Compensation money into the budget.

Ben Johns did feel that there was enough money in either budget. Mr. Colbo did have concerns with the huge split between the Visual Services and the Voc-Rehab funding. This was worked out between the analysts.

Senator Regan moved to accept the Executive recommendation for

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FTEs and accept the LFA funding pattern. Mr. Nichols pointed out that there was still a difference in the Renal Program. The LFA funded it at \$100,000 per year whereas the OBPP recommended \$185,000 for FY 80 and \$196,000 for FY 81. Representative Marks made an amended motion to accept the Executive recommendation for FTEs, the LFA recommendation for funding with the exception that they add \$50,000 per year to the Chronic Renal Unit. All present were in favor except Senator Story; the motion passed.

#### AGING SERVICES

In this program the LFA took out all Title XX money in anticipation of increased funding from the Older American's Act. The handout has the most recent figures available on this funding. Ron Weiss explained that if Title XX money was added back in they would be adding federal money onto federal money. The LFA budget funds the program at the 1979 level and there should be no cut backs. Ben Johns felt the LFA was hitting the right line of funding for general fund monies.

Ron Weiss questioned the subcommittee about vacancy savings with the reduced number of FTEs. He explained with the vacancy savings they might as well just reduce the program by two FTEs. Mr. Colbo agreed; it is better to take out FTEs than to have vacancy savings. It leaves them with more flexibility especially in the smaller programs.

Representative Marks moved to take the Executive budget recommendation but with the LFA's recommendation for general fund money at \$349,290 for FY 80 and \$353,553 for FY 81 with no vacancy savings. All were in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES

##### Social Services Reporting System - MSS System

The department has made a plea to keep this system and develop it into a management tool. At this point in time it is not operating at a high standard. The LFA has recommended funding only for a sampling system to meet federal requirements. Mr. Colbo also pointed out that the tie lines and terminals could be utilized for other systems. The chairman urged the subcommittee to let them have the system for management. Mr. Colbo promised the subcommittee that the system would be operating well or be junked by the next Legislature.

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Senator Regan moved to give SRS their system. Chairman Waldron outlined the motion to approve the Executive funding for the Social Services Reporting System with the understanding that the system will be operating, functioning and useful by the next Legislature or the system will be junked. A vote was taken:

Senator Gary Aklestad	No
Representative Robert Marks	No
Senator Pat Regan	Yes
Senator Pete Story	No
Chairman Steve Waldron	Yes

The motion failed.

Senator Story moved to accept the LFA recommendation for the reduced system. Vote:

Senator Gary Aklestad	No
Representative Robert Marks	Yes
Senator Pat Regan	No
Senator Pete Story	Yes
Chairman Steve Waldron	No

The motion failed.

Keith Colbo agreed to look at a compromise between both budgets. They will look at it again tomorrow.

#### Subsidized Adoption

The LFA recommended a lower amount for this program. Ron Weiss explained their higher budget was because they did not feel they should adjust what last Legislature funded. They felt the LFA budget would suffice. Mr. Colbo felt this was a highly successful program. It was designed to aid those families who adopted children that are handicapped or disabled.

Senator Regan moved to accept the LFA recommendation for Subsidized Adoption. All were in favor; the motion passed.

#### Curriculum Development

The funding for this program is all Title XX training money. Mr. Nichols told the subcommittee that there is legislation in Congress to put a cap on this money. This legislation would set a limit of \$300,000 for the State of Montana. The

limit will be obtained by reducing the funds by one-third each year until the limit is reached. Senator Regan made a motion to fund the training at whatever level the federal money allowed. She then withdrew the motion. There will have to be a policy consideration to determine which of the four programs, Youth Development, DD, the universities or Social Services will receive the training funds. There were no motions so the subcommittee went to another division.

Family Planning

Senator Regan moved to accept the LFA recommendation for Family Planning to be consistent with the acceptance of the Department of Health, Family Planning budget. The LFA budget was higher because he plugged in more of the Title XX monies allowed by the President. The LFA budget is below the current level, however, because he had inadvertently left out some of the funds. Senator Regan moved to accept the LFA budget. All were in favor except Senator Aklestad; the motion passed.

Legal Services

The department, in order to reduce funding, cut back their request in this bureau to \$100,000. This will mean cutting some offices. Senator Regan moved to accept the Executive recommendation of \$100,000. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Supplement of Twelve Medical Social Workers

This social workers program was to aid in a team to take individuals out of nursing homes and place them in alternative placements. Curt Nichols, LFA, did not feel they could say they were responsible for the flow through of patients. He did not recommend the program.

The supplement is needed to finish off 1979 or SRS will have to reduce some programs drastically. Representative Marks moved to accept the supplemental but would not fund the program in the next biennium. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Steve Waldron, Chairman  
Approved