

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

AGENCY I

MARCH 1, 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 Bill Hand
Representative Robert Marks
Senator Pat Regan
Senator Pete Story

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

SOCIAL SERVICES

Day Care

There are several issues to decide in this budget. The first decision is whether to keep the funding totally Title XX money or go with the department's recommendation for a split between Title IV-A funds and Title XX funds. The second issue is rate increases for day care providers.

The LFA recommended \$4.30 for state licensed providers and \$4.60 for providers who meet federal regulations for FY 80 and \$5.35 and \$5.70 for FY 81. This is a 7% increase per year. The last increase was in 1975. The LFA also recommended the current mix pattern of Title XX monies.

The department requested \$4.50 and \$5.50 for FY 80 and \$5.00 and \$6.00 for FY 81. Mr. Keith Colbo, Director of SRS, explained the split recommended by the department. Title IV-A money will be used only for non-working AFDC individuals which includes those individuals who are attending college or training programs. Title XX money would be used strictly for working AFDC persons. Approximately 70% of the funding would be Title XX; 30% would be Title IV-A. With Title IV-A the counties would have to pick up one-third of the non-federal funds. This figure would be nominal.

Senator Regan moved that SRS fund no more than 30% of the Day Care Program through Title IV-A funds. Mr. Colbo told

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the subcommittee it would be better to use the terms "working" and "non-working" in the motion because percents may vary. Senator Regan made an amended motion that when SRS considers the AFDC Day Care, the consideration will be: non-working parents, those attending college or training programs, will receive funding from Title IV-A funds and working parents will receive Title XX funding. In essence, the motion was to accept the department's recommendation for the funding split.
Vote:

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

The motion passed.

Chairman Waldron mentioned some of the recommendations the department proposes if a shortage of money occurs. These included allowing for day care only during the final year of college and limiting courses in vocational training. The department felt they would need \$870,169 over the Executive recommendation to have sufficient funds to avoid the cut-backs and \$253,039 over that to receive the increases they proposed for the biennium.

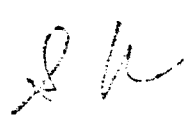
Representative Marks moved to accept the LFA rate increase recommendation. All were in favor, the motion passed.

The fiscal analysts will get together and come up with the figure after these decisions. There should be less general fund money with the decided split.

Montana Social Services Reporting System

Mr. Colbo reassessed this program after the March 1, 1979 morning meeting and developed new priorities. The department has decided they would rather have the MIMS system up-date than the MSS system. They propose to delete the MSS system and transfer the communications and equipment rent funds to the MIMS. This would be above the requested modification for the program. They would still have to maintain a sampling system for the federal requirements. The LFA did not recommend the MIMS.

Representative Marks moved to scrap the MSS system and to upgrade the MIMS according to the department's proposal.



Vote:

Senator Gary Aklestad	Yes
Representative Bill Hand	Yes
Representative Robert Marks	Yes
Senator Pat Regan	Passed
Senator Pete Story	Yes
Chairman Steve Waldron	Yes

The motion passed.

Curt Nichols also brought to the attention of the subcommittee a problem with county workers' wages. Because Title XX is over funded it would be pure general fund for increases. Curt will put together some figures for the subcommittee to look at.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The LFA has recommended deleting five field supervisors. The OBPP has funded the five field supervisors and has recommended adding ten additional auditors.

Representative Hand moved to accept the Executive recommendation. The motion failed.

Senator Regan moved to accept the LFA recommendation to delete the five FTEs for field supervisors. Mr. Keith Colbo, felt the program needed the field supervisors; he also felt very strongly about the auditors. They need the management tools.

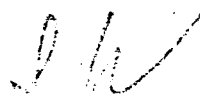
Senator Regan made a substitute motion to fund two field supervisors and eight auditors. Vote:

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

The motion failed on a tie vote.

Representative Marks moved to authorize the addition of three auditors and only two field supervisors. Vote: All were in favor of the motion except Representative Hand. The motion passed.

Mr. Nichols explained the statewide cost allocation recommended for these programs. It was meant to be a wash for federal funds,



however, because Title XX monies are at their limit it would just pass back through to the general fund. Senator Regan moved to authorize the \$34,920 for the statewide cost allocation. All were in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

Senator Regan introduced some of the facts she has found through research. Montana spends almost three-fourths of a million dollars on this program. Other states do it in a variety of ways including no such services to services out of the welfare offices. Senator Regan's proposals are to put the hiring ability within the SRS program and take the hiring power from the Veteran's Affairs Bureau; as persons retire, replacements be put in the welfare offices, and withdraw the funding for the secretary of the Veteran's Affairs Board.

Senator Regan moved that the Veteran's Affairs receive no additional FTEs and as persons retire, including secretaries, a freeze be put on that position. All were in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Senator Regan moved to fund the bureau at its current level with the exceptions that the budget be reduced in the following ways: pull out the funding for the Missoula field officer, the secretary can run the office; pull out the funding for the two part-time secretaries contracted by DAV and the VFW; and pull out the money for the \$50 per month for the board secretary.

Vote:

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

The motion failed.

Senator Story moved to pull the funds for the secretary used by the Veteran's Affairs Board. All were in favor; the motion passed. Ron Weiss did point out that the board had agreed to quit paying the secretary.

Representative Marks moved to draft a letter to the Veteran's Affairs letting them in on the subcommittee's intentions. He withdrew his motion for the time.

Senator Regan moved to delete the funding for the contracts for the two part-time secretaries for the VFW and DAV. She did not

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feel the state should be paying for the secretaries of a private organization. Vote:

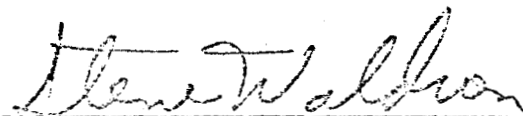
Senator Gary Aklestad	Yes
Representative Bill Hand	Yes
Representative Robert Marks	Yes
Senator Pat Regan	Yes
Senator Pete Story	No
Chairman Steve Waldron	Yes

The motion passed.

Representative Marks again moved to mail a letter to the bureau. Mr. Colbo felt that with the cuts already made, they would be hearing from the bureau. A meeting was set up for Friday, March 9, 1979 with the Veteran's Affairs Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved

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