

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

March 8, 1979 -- Room 108

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Yardley. Other committee members present were:

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

Also present were Betty Waugh and John LaFaver, Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office; Doug Booker, Office of Budget and Program Planning; Representative Bardanouve; Representative Gerke; Curt Chisholm and Larry Zanto, Department of Institutions.

Mental Health Centers

Representative Art Lund opened the discussion by saying he felt if the committee authorized the Executive's recommendation of 1.6 million, that would be a very healthy increase of their budget. He moved to have the committee accept the Executive's recommendation of \$3,270,291 for FY'80 and \$3,499,211 for FY'81. (That increase does not include the \$756,000 increase asked for by the centers.)

Chairman Yardley asked Doug Booker if the committee could ask the centers for a uniform type of accounting system to get correct and useful information.

Representative Gerke said he believes in having a uniform accounting system in the centers but also feels someone in the Department of Institutions should be in charge of the administration of the mental health centers and monitor the centers.

Chairman Yardley asked if there has been a proposal to have the state contract with the mental health centers on a patient care hour basis. Larry Zanto told the committee that is the goal to go on a fee for services basis.

Curt Chisholm added that he had talked with Peter Blouke, Administrator of the Mental Health and Residential Services Division, and he feels they are starting to establish a uniform accounting and reporting system. The system has been in effect for only six months but Dr. Blouke feels it is a good system. That is why the Department of Institutions is prepared to start experimenting with a cost for services basis in the next biennium.

The committee voted on Representative Lund's motion of accepting the

Executive's recommendation for the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

There was more discussion on moving the hospital administrator's position to the Mental Health and Residential Services Division. Representative Ellis asked if all the 15 FTEs in that division were filled at the present time. He was told there was an evaluator position open. Representative Ellis said the Director's staff budget had been figured on the basis that the hospital administrator position was to be moved to the Mental Health and Residential Services Division. If the hospital administrator position was to stay in the Director's office, the committee would cut the Mental Health and Residential Services Division staff by one FTE. Larry Zanto said he would have no problem with moving that position to the Mental Health Division. Doug Booker asked if the hospital administrator's salary of grade 20 would be moved to the Mental Health and Residential Services Division. Representative Ellis said it would.

There was discussion on the committee's decision to move the Southwestern Montana Drug Program to the Mental Health Division. Chairman Yardley told the committee he thought it was a mistake to make that move. Chairman Yardley asked how much general fund money was used in the SWMDP. John LaFaver said \$145,157 general fund money was used and the federal government would not be contributing any federal money two years from now. Chairman Yardley asked if the state would have to fund the whole program then. Curt Chisholm said yes or else the federal government would come in with a statewide services contract. Chairman Yardley said the committee would have to make a definite decision on the SWMDP. He said that program would need \$300,000 of general fund money if it is not going to be funded through the Mental Health Division. Senator Etchart asked if they could cut the funding in half. Curt Chisholm told him that would cut the grant in half. He suggested funding the program as recommended and the Department of Institutions would report to the interim committee if the federal government ceased funding after this biennium and then the program could be phased out.

Representative Gesek moved to have the committee accept the Executive's recommendations of \$461,505 for FY'80 and \$474,902 for FY'81 with the stipulation that if there is no additional federal funding at the end of this biennium, then the SWMDP would be phased out. The Chairman asked for a roll call vote. (Representative Lund was absent at the time of voting.) Senator Etchart voted against the motion and the other members of the committee voted for the motion. The motion carried.

The committee discussed the overpopulation at the Montana State Prison. A package of alternatives will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

March 8, 1979

Page 3


Representative Bardanouve offered some language for the appropriatio bill concerning the mental health centers' accounting system. That language is as follows:

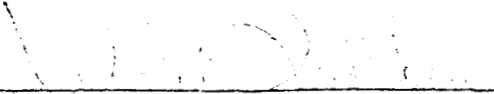
The Department of Institutions in cooperation with the office of the fiscal analyst shall set up a uniform accounting system for the Mental Health Centers. The accounting system shall provide all information necessary to determine all factors for determining levels of appropriations by the legislature. The appropriation provided in this act will be suspended until such system is provided.

Representative Bardanouve said that is just a suggestion for language and the committee can make their recommendations accordingly.

Senator Thomas moved to have the committee accept Representative Bardanouve's language. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously with Representative Lund being absent during voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Yardley, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Lofthouse, Secretary