

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INSTITUTIONS CORRECTIONS DIVISION
January 31, 1981

JACK K. MOORE, CHAIRMAN, called the meeting for the Corrections Division to order at 8:03 a.m. All committee members were present. Meeting was held in Room 108, Capitol Building, Helena, Montana. Testimony was given by Carroll South, Director of the Department of Institutions; Peter Blouke, Director of Mental Health and Residential Services; Gene Huntington, Office of Budget and Planning; Norm Rostocki, Legislative Fiscal Analyst; Clifford Murphy, RITZ supporter.

MR. SOUTH asked before the Corrections Division meeting started, he wanted Mr. Blouke to explain his connection with the RITZ program.

MR. BLOUKE explained the RITZ had evolved from the old HB 472 asking the Department of SRS and Office of Public Instruction to work out the problems the state agencies were having in regard to interagency cooperation for programs for handicapped children. Part of that committee that evolved determined the major gap in the community system was a program for emotionally disturbed children. No single agency had enough money in their budget, it was determined by these departments to develop a solution. In addition, one of the problems was the overlapping and conflicting laws regarding the responsibility between the three departments, SRS, OPI, and Department of Institutions. The committee for emotionally disturbed children received two proposals and Great Falls was determined to be the preferred site. Consequently the Department of Institutions played a major role in the establishment of this program, with the understanding the OPI and SRS were equal partners in the program. As part of the contract it was determined at that time to fund it for one year to see if it was serving a meaningful purpose clinically, and to determine if such a multi agency arrangement was realistic or feasible. He thought the breakout was \$219,000 that came from SRS, the Department of Institutions contributed \$85,000 and the OPI contributed some \$30,000. During the second year, the funding for the program from the Department of Institutions came from money we had left over after we had allocated funds to the Community Mental Health Program. It was very clearly stated to the Board of the Community Mental Health Center that the Department of Institutions was to help get the program established, and the program was to seek to become self-sufficient, and they were to seek JCAH accreditation. There was no intent on the Department's part to subsidize the program. The SRS is the lead agency and the majority funder in the program. He felt some of the confusion was relative to the need of psychiatric treatment for the after care program for the children. He noted if the funding is tied directly to the RITZ program that locks Mr. Russell into a single option as to where to place the after care clients. He feels the RITZ should be a self-

supporting program. When the program was established the Board of the Mental Health Center very clearly stated they did not want it mixed with the Mental Health Center program and it was to be viewed as a separate program from their main program. It is not a truly integrated component of the Mental Health Centers. He didn't see any reason to duplicate the structures already present. He handed out Exhibit 50.

REP. CONROY asked about the Exhibit 47A, and where the breakdown was.

MR. BLOUKE stated there were inaccuracies on this Exhibit 47A, and there were no 314 D funds at all.

MR. RUSSELL noted there are seven children the Department of SRS will not pay for. He only had \$4,000 last year, and he had to borrow from other areas to help pay for them.

MR. BLOUKE explained that the money used for this program was not the money requested from Long Range Building Fund last session.

SEN. THOMAS expressed concern over the getting the program going and where is the plan of action to keep it going?

MR. BLOUKE stated it was difficult to get a plan of action, because it was a shared responsibility. There is not at this point a good solid coordinated plan for service to emotionally disturbed children.

REP. ERNST asked what type of child was being served here.

MR. BLOUKE: The residents being served at RITZ do not need the environment that an institution represents, but are so disturbed they do not function well without close supervision and intensive treatment. This is between Warm Springs institutional care, and the treatment of the Mental Health program. Even though the figures of \$1,500 a month seem high, they are similar to services provided by the Yellowstone Ranch at \$2,200 a month. Services range from \$1,500 to \$2,600 a month at the Yellowstone Ranch. If you look at institutionalizing a child it is \$116 a day at Warm Springs.

REP. CONROY asked what type of facility is there, and what type of staffing is necessary.

MR. BLOUKE noted the facility is located at an old orphanage. The location was to allow students to participate in the local

school system. The problem of staffing is, it has to be available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, because these are seriously disturbed children.

MR. BLOUKE explained they wanted to make sure the RITZ received some pretty disturbed children when they opened. They have a teacher and an aide that come into the building and provide educational programs for those who cannot tolerate public school at all.

MR. HOFFMAN asked if the program was Medicaid certified.

MR. BLOUKE stated he didn't think so, but part of the original contract was the program was to become JCAH certified to allow Medicaid reimbursement.

MR. HOFFMAN explained that JCAH certification is higher than the state requirements for certification. You don't need to be JCAH certified to participate in the program.

MR. HUNTINGTON stated for psychiatric services for children the state has no jurisdiction, the federal people do use the JCAH standard for certification and they have to be met. The Regional Office for the National Institute of Mental Health licenses the facility. He noted the Yellowstone Boys Ranch is JCAH certified and they do receive Title I funds.

MR. ROSTOCKI stated there are two issues involved: the RITZ program wanted funding and was to be self-sufficient, and which department is responsible for these children.

MR. BLOUKE stated what Mr. Russell is requesting they be funded for treatment of the emotionally disturbed children, and that is why there is modified request.

MR. HUNTINGTON explained the position of the Office of Budget and Planning does not believe they should become the agency responsible for funding psychiatric services, mainly by doing that they eliminate any federal participation either through the foster care programs, county medical program or Medicaid.

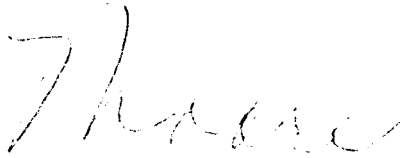
MR. SOUTH stated they don't believe they should be, but they are and until the judges change their judiciary policy, the budget will have to allow for these children, and this will harm the other programs.

SENATOR THOMAS asked who runs the RITZ program.

MR. BLOUKE explained the RITZ is a private non-profit program, the leading agency is SRS and they are the majority funder. The agencies through SRS contract through the board, who then delegates to a director the day to day operating functions. It is not a state agency.

MR. MURPHY explained they had to bring this up before the Committee, because there is no separate board for the RITZ program. From the professional in the interagencies, they have learned the program needed money over and above the participation of the three agencies. They noticed that no one was asking for it, so they appeared before the Committee to ask where to go. He noted the cost of \$1,500 was not quite enough to meet the funding requirements.

There being no further discussion or comments the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. to reconvene later at 12:30 p.m.



JACK K. MOORE, CHAIRMAN