

The Long Range Building Subcommittee convened at 7:30 a.m. in Room 129 of the State Capitol, April 14, 1981, with Chairman Donaldson presiding and Rep. Hurwitz and Senator Thomas present. Also present was Ray Hoffman, Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office. The meeting was called to hear testimony on the proposed Children's Unit on the size and location of it.

Chairman Donaldson said there are two delegations present - one from Billings and one from Missoula. He asked the Billings group to present their testimony first.

REPRESENTATIVE CHUCK COZZENS, Billings, District 64, said there were three people present from Billings to speak. He introduced them.

MARY NORTH, Billings, Billings Chapter of the Mental Health Association, spoke on volunteer services. She said she was here primarily to address what we feel would be a logical argument to consider Billings as a potential site for the Children's Center. She said in taking a look at a choice of site the role of the community is important. She said they have expertise for staffing, consultation, and supervision of such. In addition, the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch is near Billings, Eastern Montana College with its special ed program is there and they now have a program for emotionally disturbed adults. She said the area she wanted to point out was the potential support from the volunteers in the community. She said they have developed innovative programs in meeting the needs of youth. There are programs between the community and the court youth system, the Mental Health Center and the Mental Health Association. Their organization works to meet the social needs of the long term mentally ill. There is a lot of evidence of support of the programs like this.

Senator Thomas asked concerning the close proximity to the Boys and Girls Ranch. Would we be putting all our youth projects in one place and so make it difficult to serve the other parts of the state? Mrs. North said there is a facility for the less disturbed child in Great Falls and plans call for the continuation of that program. She said even though Billings is not central, it is more centrally located than some of the other population centers. She said it is important to have treatment as close to home as possible.

In response to a question, Curt Nichols, Legislative Fiscal Analysts Office, said the RITZ (Residential Intermediate Treatment Zone) in Great Falls is the cooperative efforts of several state agencies and provides intermediate level care for emotionally disturbed children. They do not need the physical care that those with an acute illness need. He said The Yellowstone Boys Ranch offers both levels of treatment. He said the RITZ is intended to be a community based project while the Children's Unit would be a self-contained service.

DAVE GORTON, Billings, Yellowstone County Commission, said the Commission and Yellowstone County is supportive of a project of this nature and excited about the possibility of being selected as the site. He left several letters of support which include: Dr. Donald Harr, Psychiatrist, Ex. 1; Dr. John Vandiventer, President, Eastern Montana College, Ex. 2; Judge Diane Barz, District Judge and Youth Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District, Ex. 3; and William B. Fox, Mayor, Ex. 4. Mr. Gorton said Yellowstone County owns numerous parcels of land which could be used for the site. One he mentioned is next to the Yellowstone Nursing Home in the Billings Heights. This would be about six acres and is in a residential area but not densely populated. It has paved roadways and water. He said there are other parcels that they could consider with the committee and they would do all possible to help acquire them.

Other things he felt that favored Billings as a choice were: 1) rapidly growing population; 2) transportation availability; 3) good environment for the professional people that would be needed; 4) large medical community that have many of the needed specialties; 5) Eastern Montana College; 6) receptive educational system; and 6) broad based community support.

DAVE GOSS, Chamber of Commerce, Billings, said their organization supports the possibility of having this facility in Billings. He said they stand ready to assist the state in any way. He said they have the facilities to compliment a facility of this type such as medical. They also have the type of things in a community that the staff people would want like retail stores, schools for the children, cultural programs, etc. They also have the facilities for the visitors as they have upwards to 3000 motel/hotel rooms available and airport flights anywhere and three bus lines. He said the community attitude has been shown to be supportive. He said the prison halfway house has been there for a year with no complaints and it is located in the downtown area. He said there will always be a few people who will not appreciate having a facility like this but he said they would be willing to work with the state in overcoming this.

SENATOR PAT REGAN, Billings, District 31, said she felt Billings is a grown up community in a social sense. She said the attitude is extrordinarily healthy toward helping facilities. She said the school system is large enough so they can handle these children in a self-contained classroom as she supposed some of the children would not be able to function in a classroom situation. She said the Billings school system is very sophisticated, very accepting and very responsible.

REPRESENTATIVE ESTHER BENGTON, Shepherd, District 59, said she is familiar with the Developmentally Disabled Council. She said the community has accepted the handicapped very well. She said the suggested parcel of land in the Billings Heights is in her particular area and she would be willing to work with her people there to explain the facility.

She said when they became aware that the subcommittee was looking at other sites they called and got immediate results from their community. She said she was proud of Billings that it has come up with this positive support on such short notice.

REPRESENTATIVE LES KITSELMAN, Billings, District 60, spoke in support of Billings being chosen as the site for the Children's Unit.

CLIFFORD MURPHY, Billings, State Board of Mental Health Association, said he would like to clarify the position of the Board. He said they have recognized the need for a facility for the severely emotionally disturbed children. He said since they did not know there would be available funds they had the difficult decision to make as to what could be an alternative. He hoped consideration would be given to the type of support services available in a community. He felt having adequately trained personnel for the facility was a crucial problem. He said they had agonized for months as to what they should do. He said the general community support for the women's security prison and for men coming out of Deer Lodge has been wonderful.

The next speaker was DICK ROSENLEAF, Director of the Children's Unit, Warm Springs. He said he was gratified to see there is interest in the program. He said it is heart breaking to see the need for this unit getting thundered under for fighting on the site. He said the largest number of their children do not come from large cities but from cities with populations of 10,000 or less. He said he has not had much experience working with the Billings school system. He said he has had good experiences with commuting the kids back and forth to Butte and Anaconda schools. He said their experience in those two communities has been positive. He said to this point Anaconda is the only community which has said they would really like to have us. He said the need for this unit is horrendous so he asked the committee to recommend the unit and build it in Broadus if they want to. He said the facility will be self-contained. He asked the committee to remember that these children are ones that are disrupted and disruptive; outraged and outrageous.

SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, District 35, said he would like to go on record as supporting.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM HANNAH, District 67, said he would like to go on record as supporting.

DAN HANSON, Billings Boys and Girls Ranch, said they have a total capacity of 116 children and began accepting girls about a year ago. They have a main campus and four community based group homes - three in Billings and one outside Red Lodge. He said their program is nationally recognized for serious and moderately disturbed children. He said they have a diagnostic

assessment facility that is fully staffed and produces assessments that have been acclaimed as excellent by all the people served. He said they have six levels of continual care within their organization. They have their own educational system which is very specialized and a model in itself. He said their only interest is that services they provide do not be duplicated by state facilities. He said they do not duplicate and do not plan to the types of services provided by the Children's Center. He said they have children that were in the Children's Unit and children from the Ranch have gone there. He said better facilities are needed for the Children's Unit. He said the Ranch facilities are provided at no cost to the taxpayer. All the facilities are provided through contributions from foundations. The cost of operating is supplemented by contributions so not passed on to the contracting services.

Chairman Donaldson said the facility is not intended to duplicate the Ranch's efforts. The hope is to make it dovetail. The main concern is to get the acute back into the main stream. He asked if they dovetail today. Mr. Hanson said they have wanted to work with the state institutions to provide the broad continuum of care for as a child gets better he can handle less restrictive settings and he should be referred to the program that can best fill his needs.

Chairman Donaldson opened the hearing to the delegation from Missoula.

JOHN LOUCKS, Missoula, Mental Health, said he was grateful to be asked to come and talk to the committee. He said he was a Pastor of the First Christian Church. He said he would like to expel the myth that Missoula is not interested in a Children's Psychological Hospital. He said he had a portfolio containing 21 letters that were garnered within 24 hours. A letter containing his testimony is EXHIBIT 5. Letters left by Mr. Loucks for the committee include: Robert Deacon, Associate Professor, Dept. of Social Work, University of Montana, EXHIBIT 6; Charles E. Lear, M.D., Western Montana Clinic, Msla, EXHIBIT 7; Mayor Bill Cregg, EXHIBIT 8; Missoula County Commissioners, EXHIBIT 9; Deborah M. Bond, EXHIBIT 10; Mrs. Robert D. Watt, EXHIBIT 11; Robert D. Watt, EXHIBIT 12; John C. Spores, Chairman, Dept. of Social Work, U of M, EXHIBIT 13; Carolyn A. Adams, EXHIBIT 14; Carolyn S. Eagle, EXHIBIT 15; Helen McMenamin, EXHIBIT 16; Mabel C. Orr, EXHIBIT 17; Arlene Breum, EXHIBIT 18; Alma Adams, EXHIBIT 19; Patsy Green, EXHIBIT 20; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Salinouse, EXHIBIT 21; JoAnn B. Byler, EXHIBIT 22; Stella Jean Hansen, Msla, Mental Health Assoc. Board Member, EXHIBIT 23; Donacienne C. Corr, EXHIBIT 24; Laura M. and Lowry S. Risdahl, EXHIBIT 25.

LARRY WHITE, Administrator of St. Patrick's Hospital, said they are one of four general hospitals that offer acute inpatient psychological services. They felt the professional resources to support a child psychological facility of the type being considered most assuredly existed in the city of Missoula. He said they would welcome the facility in their community.

Pastor Loucks said there is approximately three acres of land located near old Fort Missoula which might be used for the facility. He said it is surplus land that was given to a citizen's group in Missoula and has been deeded over to the Mental Health Association and could be available for a site. The site would be close to the Missoula Community Hospital. He said it is a scenic part of Missoula and an excellent location. He urged the committee to seriously consider Missoula as the site.

Senator Thomas said he was concerned that the approach to the project was as if it were starting at ground zero. He said they are building a building for a very successful program. He said this group of children has failed with the professionals of the community. The program is self-contained.

Pastor Loucks said he concurred with what Senator Thomas was saying. He said the professionals in the self-contained system will need supportive programs and they have that.

Rep. Hurwitz asked if Pastor Loucks would address how the university system looks at this. Pastor Loucks said they have a great interest as is shown in the letter from the Department of Social Work. It could be part of the educational process for the students in social work.

Rep. Donaldson asked about community support and attitude. He said he understood there had been some problems in locating certain group homes in Missoula. Pastor Loucks said he was relatively new to Missoula as he has been there only two years.

CLARK ANDERSON, Director, Mental Health Assoc., said he supports what Mr. Rosenleaf has said. He hoped the committee didn't get so hung up on the politics of having a building that they lose site of what is to be done. He said he would like to point out something. He said they have the largest population of the state and have enjoyed the smallest level of state support in the state. He said Missoula could take care of these things. He said they learned only yesterday that this meeting was going to take place and a great many people became interested quickly. He said there is a lot of interest on the part of the University as they are eager to have a training site for some of their students. He said he was not aware of any group homes that were considered. He felt they had a tolerant, understanding community.

Rep. Donaldson said the appropriation for the facility was turned down by the committee and now they are going back to see if that decision was proper.

Senator Thomas expressed a feeling that putting the facility in Missoula might make treatment a second rate thing.

Mr. Anderson assured him that students who think we are there for their convenience have an awakening. He said service is first and training is secondary. He said the people in charge will set the goals not the university.

DORIS WHITE, St. Patrick's Hospital, said they received a phone call late in December to provide treatment for a 9 year old youngster. No other place could take him. She said this shows the compassion and concern they have for children. She said people do make an effort to support this type of system.

REPRESENTATIVE EARL LORY said he would like to address one aspect and that is that the role of the university would be a supportive role. He said the medical facilities are excellent.

BILL HICKEY, Anaconda Public Schools, said he saw the building of the unit as a strong need. He said he has worked with Dick Rosenleaf for a long time - first with the OPI and then through the school system. He said Anaconda is a feasible site as it is a medium sized town. He felt a medium sized town would be better for these children coming out of their self-contained setting. He said they can give individual attention as they have only 600 children in their high school and 600 in the grade level. He felt the mainstreaming would be better in the medium town especially in Anaconda as the community would lend its support and be behind it. They would become more involved. He said they do have reasonable quality living and attract reasonably quality people. He felt anyone would be willing to live in their area. He said they are alive and well, happy and healthy. He felt they should be given strong consideration for the site.

Rep. Donaldson said they did visit Warm Springs and the Anaconda site. He felt there was a danger in clustering services as in so doing you may weaken the whole service.

REPRESENTATIVE RED MENAHAN, District 90, Anaconda, said people sure get on the band wagon when there is a dollar to follow. He said they can provide what anyone else can. He said at the Anaconda High School there is not a lock on a locker.

SENATOR WILLIAM F. HAFFERMAN, District 11, Libby, said in his opinion there is a need for really adequate housing and environment for a successful program. He urged the committee to be sure that what is done now will address that and set the foundation for the next fifty years. He felt the need thing should be kept in mind and it should be done. He said in Anaconda they have been doing it and will continue to do it.

REPRESENTATIVE JOE BRAND, District 28, Deer Lodge, said the desire is to put these children in the mainstream of society so they can be "competent" adults.

Senator Thomas asked how the Mental Health Association Directors felt about the size of the unit. Mr. Anderson said the idea of clustering is of some concern. He said they are a little concerned about the size. Mr. Rosenleaf said he also was concerned with the size but went for 60 because of the waiting list. He said to offset the size it would be divided into four units of 15 each. Mr. Anderson said he is a believer in community service - do you have nothing or a 60 bed unit.

Another gentleman expressed a feeling that a group should only be about six with this kind of severity. Mr. Hanson said their Ranch operates on a group of 8.

Mr. Rosenleaf expressed a concern at losing some of his staff if the facility were moved. He said it takes two to three years of intensive training for the staff and duplicating them is tough. He felt he would lose about 50% of his staff.

Mr. Anderson said he appreciates what Mr. Rosenleaf is saying as the average life of a professional in this field is two years and four months.

DALE R. CURRY, Office of Public Instruction, responded to a question concerning federal fund availability that it is difficult to say. He said theoretically there should be a small portion of set aside funds that can be used this year. He said next year there would probably be none.

Mr. Hickey said his school district would be happy to put in a request for set-aside funds which could be used for equipment and books and other things allowed.

CARROLL SOUTH, Director of Institutions, said it would take a 2/3 vote to increase the bonding authorization. He felt a dispute over the site might make this more difficult.

Chairman Donaldson closed the hearing as the members were needed at another meeting. He said they would come together in about half an hour to further discuss the issue. The time was 9:18 a.m.

Chairman Donaldson reconvened his subcommittee at 9:50 a.m. in Room 129. Rep. Hurwitz and Senator Thomas were present. Chairman Donaldson said the subcommittee had reconvened after hearing the testimony to come to some decisions to report to the full committee.

Rep. Hurwitz moved that the facility contain 60 beds and be built in a modular style that would provide flexibility on the placement of these children. The suggestion was to have four fifteen bed units. This motion carried unanimously.

Senator Thomas said they have not encountered a negative feeling as to the need of having this facility built.

Rep. Hurwitz said the feeling of the committee seems to be it should not be at Warm Springs.

Senator Thomas asked of the possibility of using one of the empty buildings at Warm Springs as a temporary holding facility for female offenders. Perhaps use it for a year or so until that problem could be addressed. Rep. Hurwitz said he would rather the subcommittee stay out of that completely.

Chairman Donaldson said all the empty buildings at Warm Springs concerned him.

Rep. Hurwitz asked if we could resolve the matter of whether it is important to have it in a metropolitan setting.

Chairman Donaldson said the next step is making a decision on a site. He personally felt a recommendation should be made. He said he had visited with Rep. Bardanouve who feels it should be left with a committee to make that decision.

Senator Thomas said he gets the feeling in the Senate that it should be narrowed down to about four site selections and then maybe given to the interim legislative finance committee to decide.

Rep. Hurwitz said he felt the subcommittee should come up with a recommendation and then it could be taken or not. He said they should focus in on one or the other location and the reasons for it. He said the difference between Anaconda and Billings or Missoula are the facilities available in addition to what is at Anaconda. He said they should not be led by the fact that Anaconda is a depressed area. He said Dick Rosenleaf has a really good program but he is not forever.

Chairman Donaldson said that Billings is his first choice.

Senator Thomas said that Anaconda would be his first choice and Billings his second choice.

Chairman Donaldson said he didn't think we would get a children's unit if we pushed for Anaconda.

Senator Thomas said Billings would be closer to the population center and there would be good transportation communication between the RITZ at Great Falls.

Rep. Hurwitz asked concerning cost if the money was appropriated. How much time would it take? Ray Hoffman, Fiscal Analyst Office, said since there isn't any plans now - just a rough drawing of Mr. Rosenleaf's - it would be October or so of the next biennium before it would be operational. He said the present appropriation request does not contain any operational budget. That would give time to transfer people and

hire new staff if needed. He anticipated it would cost 2.4 million in 1983 and 2.7 million in 1984. He said Mr. Rosenleaf's budget calls for 118 FTEs and theirs has 99 FTEs. He said a full time psychologist is not provided by the department. He said this could be handled in two ways - contracted for or a full time one hired. Mr. Hoffman mentioned the square footage for 60 children facility would cost 2.62 million to build.

Mr. Hoffman said the current cost is \$116 a day at Warm Springs and Mr. Rosenleaf conceptualizes it would cost \$113 a day in the new facility. He said Warm Springs is expensive but is performing a good service. Medicaid might be available - at present not a certified area so not getting anything.

Rep. Hurwitz thought the facility would work in either community. Billings has some things going for it as it is centrally located and there is already a program going there. A city that size should have a psychologist with whom they could contract and who might be of a higher caliber than one the state could afford to hire.

Mr. Carroll Smith, Administrator, Dept. of Institutions, questioned if they were going to recommend a site if they shouldn't advertise so all areas would know they were thinking of another site. Rep. Hurwitz said this would be more true if they were thinking of Anaconda as there are a lot of cities that size. But if you are thinking of metropolitan areas this is not as true.

Senator Thomas said Great Falls is interested but doesn't want to appear hoggish.

Mr. South said they recommend Anaconda. He said some people will say they didn't know it was wide open.

Senator Thomas asked if there was any opposition to putting it in Billings. Mr. South said he doesn't want to see it shot down because of the location. He said they will build and support it wherever the legislature decides to put it.

Rep. Dussault said she was less comfortable with the proceedings all the time. She said she keeps feeling there should be some kind of criteria in relation to the program in determining the site. She said she didn't know what the criteria will be. She said they were rushing awfully quickly to do something that will last 50 years. She felt it should be judged from the standpoint of whatever type of services are available. She felt this decentralized centralized facility could work in either community as the other type of services are relatively available. She said the question is whether to get it funded this trip.

Senator Thomas said they had toured Warm Springs and the program. The program is self-contained in nature. The program needs very few external type of expertise or services. Reason

it is working so well is they were able to take and develop a program they feel good about. Good feeling about the type of job. Rep. Hurwitz said his feeling was the program was built around Mr. Rosenleaf - he was the innovative head and has a great feeling for what he is doing. As a consequence that thinking has rubbed off on the people he is working with. Chairman Donaldson said if you have a good program, you will attract staff no matter where it is. He hoped Mr. Rosenleaf would stay with the program. Senator Thomas agreed top priority is the staff and the program and the director.

Rep. Dussault said what we have is a very innovative program that works with kids. Dick has developed a model program and now he is trying to design a facility for the program. She feared the legislators might be so caught up in the enthusiasm they might make an error like with the prison.


Chairman Donaldson said we could be making a mistake by waiting too long. He felt a basic decision should be made on the size and location.

Mr. South assured them the facility would be studied so mistakes fifty years down the road aren't made.

Rep. Hurwitz made a motion to place the facility in Billings as a first location recommendation. Chairman Donaldson suggested the subcommittee make all decisions tentative at this point and come together with a final decision about two o'clock. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GENE DONALDSON, CHAIRMAN

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VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE _____

COMMITTEE _____

BILL Subcommittee on Long Range Bd. g.

Date 4-13

SPONSOR _____

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
✓ P. Blonke	HELENA	DEPT. INSTITUTIONS		
✓ J. CARLSON	HELENA	SRS		
✓ G. HUNTINGTON	HELENA	CBPP		
J. E. LEVINE	MISSOULA	Mental Health		
L. L. WHITE	MISSOULA	ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL		
Don White	MISSOULA	St. Patrick Hospital		
Dorothy Lescautz	Missoula	St. Patrick Hospital		
Dan Hansen	Billings	Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch		
Dale Zulauf	Missoula	Missoula General Hospital		
Alfred H. Murphy	Billings	State Bd. Mental Health Assn. ✓		
D. Briggs	HELENA	Regwin IV MHC		
C CHISHOLM	HELENA	DEPT OF INSTITUTIONS ✓		
Bill Hickey	Anaconda	Anaconda Public Schools		
Jim Hamill M.U.	Warm Springs	W.S.S.H.		
John S. Rowley	Warm Springs	W.S.S.H.		
PAVE GORTON	BILLINGS	YELLOWSTONE CO COMMISSION		
MARY E NORTH	BILLINGS	BLES CHAPLAIN - Mental Health Assn.		

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

DONALD L. HARR, M. D.
PRACTICE LIMITED TO
PSYCHIATRY

COLLEGE PARK
PROFESSIONAL CENTER
2520 - 17TH STREET WEST
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102
TELEPHONE 259-1425

JOSEPH D. RICH, M.D., P.C.
PRACTICE LIMITED TO
PSYCHIATRY

April 13, 1981

Legislative Long Range Planning Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Dear Sirs:

It has been brought to my attention that there is legislative consideration for building a facility to be utilized in the treatment of children and adolescents for the state of Montana. Please be aware of the importance for such a facility to be located in a community where adequate consultation and supervision can be obtained so as to offer the best possible treatment program available for the youth of our state in need of such treatment.

This community has an excellent regional mental health center, six psychiatrists in private practice, several highly competent clinical psychologists, numerous physicians in the related specialties, some well qualified psychiatric social workers and nurses and the staff of the Yellowstone Boys Ranch, who can all be utilized for such consultation or other assistance in developing such a program.

Sincerely yours,
Donald L. Harr, M.D.



EASTERN
MONTANA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Billings, Montana 59101
(406) 657-2300

Jan 13, 1981

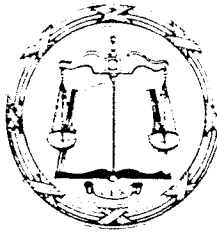
to the Committee for the selection of a site for an
Emotionally Disturbed Youth Institution.

This study was to determine what the
possibilities of such a unit in Billings would be in
relation to existing work the programs at Eastern Montana
College regarding Special Education and how we
could serve if the unit was created here, the intent of
the faculty and the appropriate student body. I do not
to come to a conclusion, but the unit would seem to be
a viable alternative for the college.

If you are specific questions I would be
happy to answer them by phone for any member of the
committee.

Sincerely,

John Van der Werf



Thirteenth Judicial District

COUNTIES
BIG HORN
CARBON
STILLWATER
TREASURE
YELLOWSTONE

DIANE G. BARZ
District Judge
Room 519 Yellowstone County Courthouse
BILLINGS MONTANA 59101

April 13, 1981

Long Range Planning Committee
State Legislature
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Committee Persons:

In the ninth hour it has been brought to my attention that there is a possibility that the children's unit to replace the facility of the Adolescent Unit in Warm Springs could be located in Billings. I would encourage all of you to consider Yellowstone County for such a facility.

Our professional expertise in this community, the present mental health organizations and facilities and various agencies, as well as volunteers and resources from an urban area could be utilized for making such a facility if located here a resounding success.

In addition, because of our large population base, I am sure we contribute to the population of the adolescent unit in greater proportion to any other location in the state.

Sincerely yours,

DIANE G. BARZ
District Judge and
Youth Court Judge of
the Thirteenth Judicial District

DGB/dfb



Ex. 4

CITY OF BILLINGS

P.O. BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
PHONE (406) 245-8989

April 13, 1981

Honorable Members of the Long Range
Building Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Committee Members:

I have learned of the possibility of funds be appropriated for a new Children's Unit to replace the present facilities at Warm Springs State Hospital. I know that Yellowstone County may be considered as a site for this treatment center.

As Mayor of Billings, I want to assure you that our City would be supportive of such a program and facility in our community.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Fox
Mayor

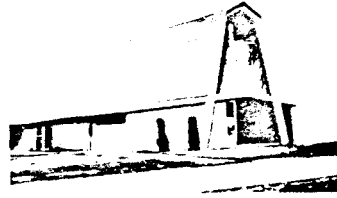
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6x.5

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

2701 Russell Street
Missoula, Montana 59801



Dr. John C. Loucks, Pastor
Phone 549-7221

April 13, 1981

Representative Jack K. Moore
Chairman of the Joint Committee on Long Range Building
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Jack and Fellow Committeemen:

As the Chairman of the Missoula Mental Health Advisory Committee and as a Pastor who is interested in the field of mental health, I am extremely concerned about the location of the proposed Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Youth. I believe the site should be chosen with utmost care and that the primary concern should be focused upon the welfare of the patients. It is my opinion that the most appropriate site would be Missoula because:

- (1) There is a need for a facility of this kind to be located on the western edge of Montana which would serve the growing population centers of this area.
- (2) The cultural, educational, recreational and commercial milieu of Missoula would attract a more highly qualified administrative, psychiatric, psychological and supportive personnel.
- (3) There is a very high specialist-to-patient ratio in Missoula which would provide for the holistic care of the residents of the hospital.
- (4) Finally, I think the school system, which has an excellent reputation, would also be a strong asset to hospital programs.

It is my hope that you will give this proposal your fullest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Loucks, D. Min.

Robert L. Deaton
Associate Professor
Department of Social Work
University of Montana
2710 Mulberry Lane
Missoula, Montana 59801

April 13, 1981

Representative Bert Hurwitz
House of Representatives
Montana State Legislature
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Representative Hurwitz:

I am writing regarding HB-666, which would establish a 60-bed residential care unit for severely emotionally disturbed children.

My concerns relate to the size and location of the proposed facility. It should be located in one of the larger cities in the state, preferably Missoula. The opportunity would be provided in Missoula for other community services, such as special education, vocational training, vocational rehabilitation, and community mental health services. Also, University students in their advanced internships and practicums in social work, clinical psychology, nursing, guidance and counseling and other fields could assist in the provision of specialized services under professional supervision at reduced cost to the state.

Secondly, I would urge that the facility be kept small at 30 beds or less. Two small units in the eastern and western parts of the state would be preferable, and offer the opportunity to give more specialized services.

Your consideration of these ideas is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert Deaton
Associate Professor
University of Montana
Department of Social Work

THE WESTERN MONTANA CLINIC

501 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MONTANA

59801

TELEPHONE 721-5600



April 13, 1981

8x.7

INTERNAL MEDICINE

CARDIOLOGY
HAROLD A. BRAUN, M.D.
G.A. DRETTERT, M.D.
L.M. WILSON, JR., M.D.

DIAGNOSTIC
J.R. ARMSTRONG, M.D.

ENDOCRINOLOGY AND ALLERGY
W.A. REYNOLDS, M.D.

GASTROENTEROLOGY
R.J. COCHRAN, M.D.
J.A. LAIN, M.D.

HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY
A.W. WISELEY, M.D.
B.D. COLWELL, M.D.

HEMATOLOGY
W.W. WILSON, M.D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE
G.G. PAT. MCCARTHY, M.D.

NEPHROLOGY
JOHN R. REITER, M.D.

NEUROLOGY
S.F. JOHNSON, M.D.

PULMONARY
C. PAULIEMENIN, M.D.

RHEUMATOLOGY
HENRY W. BUREY, M.D.
E.C. ADAMS, M.D.

PEDIATRICS
W.E. THAMANNIS, M.D.
CHARLES E. BELL, M.D.
R.D. JOHNSON, M.D.
RONCE L. HARTY, M.D.

NEONATOLOGY
C.A. HARPER, M.D.

PSYCHIATRY
N.L. HOWELL, M.D.
J.E. LEAR, M.D.

SURGERY
DAVID H. FARRHAM, M.D.
P.C. NATHANIEL, M.D.
GEORGE W. ROTH, JR., M.D.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

INFERTILITY
T.J. CAMPBELL, M.D.
D.S. SOMMERBERG, M.D.
R.D. MERRILL, M.D.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY
J.E. FRIEN, M.D.
B.T. MUNRO, M.D.

DERMATOLOGY
PATRICK E. WATSON, M.D.

UROLOGY
D.E. GOTT, M.D.
R.S. MUNRO, M.D.

ORTHOPAEDIC
A.G. PETERSON, M.D.
M.A. SOUSA, M.D.

RADIOLOGY
J.O. LAWRENCE, M.D.
ANDREW W. KANE, M.D.
R.H. JAEGER, M.D.

ANESTHESIOLOGY
F. LEVIN KING, M.D.

PSYCHOLOGY
M.W. MARKS, Ph.D.

ADMINISTRATION
B.E. HAMPEL, B.S.

Jack K. Moore
Long Range Building Committee
House of Representatives
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Moore:

It has come to my attention that legislation authorizing the building of a new treatment unit for severely mentally ill children is still pending. I would like to make two points regarding this legislation.

First, there is no doubt that a new and expanded treatment facility for severely mentally ill children in the state of Montana is sorely needed. The Children's Unit at the state hospital at Warm Springs is run by a staff of capable and highly dedicated professionals. They are sorely handicapped, however, by their antique physical plant which limits not only the quality of care they can give but also limits the number of children they can serve. It is becoming clear that there are many severely disturbed children in the state of Montana who are not being served for lack of adequate inpatient facilities. These children are generally tolerated by schools, parents, and social service agencies until their physical size renders them unmanageable. They may then be referred to facilities for the adult mentally ill, the juvenile justice system, or facilities for the mentally retarded. The shame is that these youngsters do not have their disorders diagnosed and treatment undertaken when the symptoms first present in their pre-teen years. Over the years of its operation, the Children's Unit at Warm Springs has noted a trend toward younger and younger referrals. If they are to meet this need they will require a new facility which will allow them to expand.

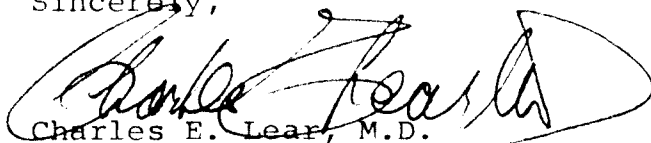
Once the need for such a treatment facility has been established there comes the question of where it should be located. There is an inpatient treatment unit for young people in eastern Montana, the Yellowstone Boys' Ranch near Billings. It makes sense, therefore, that the new facility be built in western Montana. Missoula seems a likely spot for this facility for the following reasons. Such a facility could draw on the resources of the University of Montana and its graduate program in Clinical Psychology. It must not be forgotten that mind and body are not separate entities and that diseases of a mental or emotional nature

Jack K. Moore
RE: Children's Treatment Facility
April 13, 1981
Page 2

often have physical components. Missoula is richly served by all varieties of medical specialists. There are, so far as I know, two psychiatrists who have training in child psychiatry in the state of Montana, and only one, myself, who has been certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in child psychiatry. Both practicing child psychiatrists in Montana live in Missoula. There is land available on which to build this unit near the Mental Health Center at Fort Missoula. For these reasons I would urge you to strongly consider Missoula as the site for the new Children's Treatment Unit.

I am very interested in this project, and if I may offer you any further information or advice in this area, please feel free to call on me.

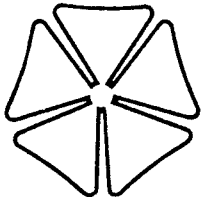
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Lear", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Charles E. Lear, M.D.

CEL/sm

Ex. 8



THE GARDEN CITY
HUB OF FIVE VALLEYS

Missoula, Montana 59801

Bill Cregg
Mayor
201 W. Spruce St.
Phone 728-2112

April 13, 1981

Letter MC-81-176

Jack Moore, Chairman
Joint Subcommittee on Long Range Building
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Mr. Moore:

Please know that the City of Missoula and her people are eager to see a childrens' mental health center located here.

Our great interest in mental health, and especially in youngsters, makes the Garden City a good choice. Also, the City has enough of the amenities - sports, cultural, and educational - that potential staff members would be attracted to our locale.

We appreciate the hard work you, the legislature, has done on behalf of the people of Montana.

Thanks for your consideration, and warm personal regards.

Cordially,

Bill Cregg

BC:je

MISSOULA COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

• Missoula County Courthouse • Missoula, Montana 59801

(406) 721-5700

April 13, 1981

BCC-81-333

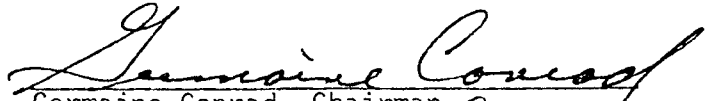
Representative Jack Moore, Chairman
Long-Range Building Committee
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Representative Moore:

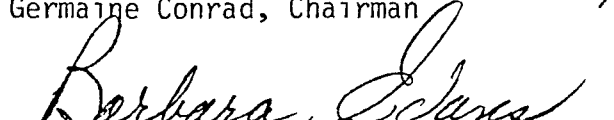
We are writing to inform you, as Chairman of the Committee studying replacing the Children's Unit at Warm Springs, that if a new facility is to be built, we fully support building it in Missoula. We believe that Missoula has the professional and educational resources, as well as the needed community support, to make it the best location for such a facility.

We are prepared to cooperate with all State and local agencies in making a Children's Unit in Missoula the best possible setting for treating emotionally disturbed children.

Sincerely,



Germaine Conrad, Chairman



Barbara Evans, Commissioner

OUT OF OFFICE - Not Available for Signature
Bob Palmer, Commissioner

BCC:HS:11

cc: Members of the Long-Range Building Committee
Appropriation Committee Members
Missoula Legislators

100 Westender Drive
Wisconsin, Montana 59101
April 13, 1981

Rep. Burt Burwitz
State Capitol Bldg.
Helena, Montana

Dear Representative Burwitz,

There is no doubt in my mind that children with emotional difficulties need additional services ranging from extended family and network therapy to residential treatment. Building and staffing a new treatment facility offers an incredible opportunity to provide more **effective** services than currently exist. However achieving that result requires a great deal of foresight. I encourage you to study the issue thoroughly before deciding in favor of another single institution for children suffering from mental illness.

Thank you
Deborah M. God
Deborah M. God

cc: Jack Coore, Chm.
Gene Donaldson
Bill Thomas

Ex. 11

451 Kensington
Missoula, Mont.
April 13, 1981

Rep. Jack K. Moore
Chr. Joint Comm. Long Range Bldg. Program
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, Mont.


Dear Rep. Moore:

This is to suggest that in the locating of the facility to treat severely disturbed children the unique advantages Missoula can offer to these children receive first attention.

I understand that Anaconda is also being considered as a possible site. Believe me, I am not indifferent to their unfortunate economic problems and realize their need for help. However, sick children who are our future citizens are far too important to be placed where back up professionally trained people are not the very best available. And as a registered nurse I'm quite familiar with what Missoula has to offer and believe it to be far superior.

Please give my best to Geri--I've missed our Wednesday chats during B.P. hours in the Senate Chambers.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Robert D. Watt

8x.12

451 Kensington Ave.
Missoula, Mont.
April 13, 1981

Representative Jack K. Moore
Chairman of Joint Committee on Building
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Friend Jack:

This is to give my strongest support to Missoula as the site for the State facility for disturbed children.

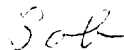
It means nothing to me personally, but it means everything to the children involved that they are where trained people are available to help them.

With the specialists in this field who are at the University and with such an unusual concentration of doctors and medical facilities as are in Missoula, the children's chances for a normal adulthood are increased. Other testimony will, I am sure, show the reasons for, and the wisdom of, this choice.

I want to congratulate you on being selected to head this very important committee. As you know, there is a special reason for my interest in The Long Range Building Program.

Best wishes for a successful closing of this session.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Watt



University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

April 13, 1981

Honorable Bert L. Hurwitz
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

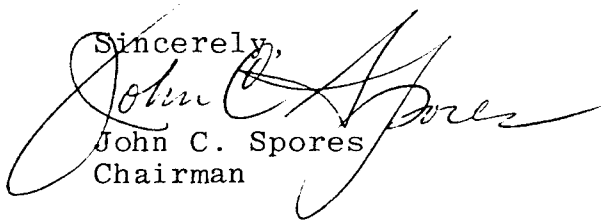
Dear Mr. Hurwitz:

The faculty of the Department of Social Work at the University of Montana wish to indicate their support for development in Missoula of a state facility to serve emotionally disturbed children and youth.

A critical component of our program of professional social work training is a nine-month practicum internship and I estimate that if the facility is placed in Missoula at least four or five students annually would choose to serve there.

While such a facility would offer a tremendous training opportunity for our students, I believe the gain would be mutual. A number of social agencies have benefitted from the service of talented practicum students, and there are far more agencies desiring practicum students than there are practicum students available. Many of our students would function very productively, as trainees, in the type of facility being considered, and I believe the quality of service provided would be strengthened accordingly.

Realizing the decision of where to locate the facility is difficult and complex, I urge you to consider the many benefits and resources that would be available if the facility is located in Missoula. Certainly the faculty and students of the Department of Social Work would have a strong interest in being closely involved in its work.

Sincerely,

John C. Spores
Chairman

JCS/pjw

6 September Drive
Missoula, Montana 59801
April 11, 1981

Chairman Jack K. Moore & Members
Long Range Building Committee
House of Representatives
Helena, Montana

Dear Chairman Moore:

I am writing to ask that your Committee consider locating the Children's Treatment Center in Missoula, which has the resources to provide on-going and diverse professional support services.

Building the facility in Anaconda will give the town a short-term economic boost, but my prime concern is the long-term goal of continued high quality care of our mentally ill children. Should the Center be located in a major urban area such as Missoula, potential staff could be recruited on the basis of factors other than money. Missoula offers a quality of life which attracts professional and lay persons alike.

I commend your committee in allocating funds to build the badly needed Children's Treatment Center. Please carry your committment all the way and choose the location which would most effectively serve the children's needs for years to come--Missoula.

Respectfully,



(Mrs.) Carolyn A. Adams, R.N., B.A., M.Sc.N

Ex. 15

635 E. Sussex
Wassonville, Mt
59501

April 13, 1951

Representative Carl Kurwitz
Massachusetts State Legislature
Capitol
Helen, Mt 59601

Dear Representative Kurwitz:

It is my hope to express support and concern to the Center for Children with Mental Illness in Mass.

Massachusetts can attract well trained competent mental health professionals and recently has an array of new services

which would have
provided higher quality
care than similar
communities in the
state.

Learning from a
family which has
had to cope with
a number of mental
illnesses I am
well aware of the
importance of good
professional services.
Thank you for
your consideration of
this matter. We
appreciate the way
and how you and
your colleagues spend
making many decisions
on behalf of all of us.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Page

11/2 1981
Missoula, MT
April 13, 1981

Chairman Jack K. Moore
Long Range Building Committee
House of Representatives
Helena, MT

Dear Chairman Moore:
Please consider Missoula
as the site for the children's
treatment facility. Our commu-
nity has a broad base of sup-
port services and is a very
pleasant place for attracting
potential staff.

Sincerely,
Mabel C. Orr

RE: House Bill (666)

Dear Representative Howitt,
I am asking your support
for the children unit to be
placed in Missoula. As a
long time resident of Missoula,
I know the advantages we have
to offer.

We have the University resources,
community volunteer programs
and support groups eg. The
Parents Support Group! Also -
we have professional
personnel in private practice
and the Mental Health Center
staff.

Sincerely,
Helen McMenamin
230 University
P.O. Box 519 Helena

Ex. 18

The reason is we opened
for consideration of a children's
Mental Hospital. It was to
open for the minutes also
to be strongly considered.

The men of the past
would be ideal. The University
would be good source of use.
The mental health center would
be close by.

I urge to you to
consider Memphis as the best
choice of location.

Thank you.
William Brown
President Memphis Co.
Republican Woman.

Please feel free to contact
me if need be.

5950 N. Meadwood Dr
Memphis 39801

Ex. 18

April 14th, 1981
509 Meadwood Drive
Memphis, Tennessee
39801

Dear Sir:

I am in support of
locating the Christian Treatment
Center at 771 Meadwood Dr. (containing
local community of free
variety of patients and
will help attract to
potential staff members.

Do the long run we will
meet the needs of the
children, for high quality
care.

Very truly yours
William Brown

Herrnicks, Mrs.

April 13th '81

Representative Post Stearns
 Helena, Mt.

Dear Sir:

I support House Bill 666 which deals with the Children Center for the State of Montana.

It is my feeling that the Center would serve our use to the fullest if it were located in Missoula.

The many facilities, the spirit of helpfulness and cooperation among the people and the educational opportunities in Missoula are unique to our state. Locating the Children Center close to these things would make the budget more efficient as well

II

as being more available to a larger community.

Thank you

Post Stearns
 Box 66

Herrnicks, Mrs. S. 59870

April 13, 1981

Rep. Bert Sturtevant

We represent House Bill 666; which deals with the Childrens Center for the State of Montana.

It is our feeling that this Center would serve its use to the fullest if it were located in Missoula. Some reasons for the Missoula location would be:

1. Community Mental Health Center
2. Large Medical Community
3. University of Montana
4. Vocational Rehab. Center
5. Missoula County Health Center

We will appreciate your interest and concern in this matter. Thank you
 Maxine Carl Salomonson
 245 So. 4th West, Missoula, Mt.

April 19 1951

Jack R. Moore, Chairman
 Long Range Building Committee
 House of Representatives
 Helena, Montana

Re: H.B. 666, Child Treatment Center

Dear Chairman Moore:

I feel the Center should be efficiently coordinated with schools and medical services.

I therefore recommend that Missions not become the most logical entity for the Center.

Thank you.

(Mrs.) Jo Ann B. Boyer
 10 September Drive
 Missoula, MT 59701

Ex. 23

April 13, 1981

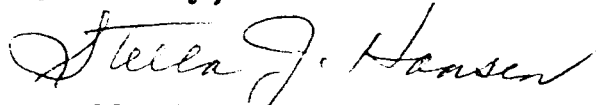
Rep. Burt L. Hurwitz
Capital Station
Helena, Mont. 59601

Dear Rep. Hurwitz,

I am concerned with H.B. 666, and would suggest that action be postponed until further study could determine a better sight for the facility.

Missoula has been suggested as we have staff, etc. I think this should be considered.

Sincerely,



Stella Jean Hansen
Board Member, Msla. Mental Health
Assoc.

841 Woodford St.
Missoula, Mont. 59801

Missoula, Mont. 6x

April 13, 1981

Representative Bert Hurnitz
Montana State Capitol

Dear Sir,

It was with happiness that I heard of the Legislature's allotment for a Children's Mental Treatment Center to be built in the state.

We are in great need of such a center.

I certainly hope that your Committee and the Legislature will primarily consider Missoula as the Montana city in which to build and establish it.

Primarily, because such an institution has to be manned by and with trained personnel which is available in both quantity and quality in Missoula.

The city is also friendly to and eager to help the mentally retarded and handicapped, as the many available programs attest, as well as the many established homes for the mentally handicapped.

Volunteers for this work are easily obtainable and mentally trained personnel plentiful through the interested departments of the University.

Sincerely,
Donacienne C. Core

April 13, 1981

Representative Burt Hurwitz
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Representative Hurwitz:

My husband and I support House Bill 666 which deals with the Children's Center for the State of Montana.

It is our strong feeling that this Center would serve our young folks to the fullest if it were located in Missoula. Some reasons for the Missoula location are:

1. Medical facilities for all purposes are very fine.
2. Community Mental Health Center here, plus many groups here dealing with mental problems in young people and adults.
3. Missoula County Health Center which assists in all areas of health for the individual and families.
4. Vocational Rehabilitation Center here is very good.
5. University of Montana offers a very good mental health program as well as entertainment for youth and adults.
6. Missoula offers many advocacy groups and volunteer programs.

We also feel that this children's center should be far away from Warm Springs so that no stigma can be attached to this hospital. These young people need every possible advantage to try to live a normal life.

We have a Parent's support group started here which is a great aid for families of these children.

Do what you can to support us in this effort. We thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Lowry and Laura

Laura M. and Lowry S. Risdahl
2405 39th St
Missoula, Mt 59801

Yellowstone



BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH

Equal but separate care for troubled children

January 28, 1981



- BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
- POST OFFICE BOX 2549
- RANCH OFFICE (406) 656-3001
- BUSINESS ONLY 252-9301

Interagency Committee
for Handicapped Children

Attn: All Members

Re: Ways in which YBGR might be of further assistance in meeting some of the needs of emotionally disturbed children as outlined in the minutes of our December 10th, 1980 meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President
LOUIS R. HALL
Streeter Bros.
Billings, Montana 59101
- Vice President
GERALD A. FRANZ
Plaza Appliance
Billings, Montana 59102
- Second Vice President
PAUL N. ODEGAARD
Odegaard Evergreen Drug
Billings, Montana 59102
- Secretary-Treasurer
AUSTIN DARKENWALD
Montana Petroleum Marketing
Billings, Montana 59101
- JOHN W. BRADFORD
Bradford Roofing & Insulation
Billings, Montana 59101
- JAMES P. ESCHLER
Principal, Riverside Jr. High
Billings, Montana 59101
- GERALD M. GASTON, P.E.
Gasterson/Stewart/Gaston, Inc.
Billings, Montana 59102
- JOHN H. LEUTHOLD
Rancher
Molt, Montana 59057
- RICHARD T. RAWLINGS
Agricultural Science
Billings, Montana 59102
- W. L. SHRYOCK
Insurance
Kalispell, Montana 59901
- JOHN H. UHLEIN
Rancher
Ennis, Montana 59729
- EVA VAN ARSDALE
Mental Health Advocate
Billings, Montana 59102
- Executive Director
FRANKLIN ROBBIE

Dear Committee Members:

First I want to say again how much I appreciate being allowed to attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the Interagency Committee. Your recognition of our input, in representing the private sector in residential child care, means very much to us and we are most anxious to be helpful in every way possible.

With this thought in mind, I would like to offer our assistance on one or more of the problems discussed in the December meeting and outline for all of you a projection of our expansion plans for the next two years. I also wish to correct the minutes by more accurately defining our intentions in reference to the matters reviewed on Page 4, Paragraph 5, where reference is made to "the possibility of constructing a new intensive twenty-bed care facility if the needs and referrals are apparent, etc."

First I would like to refer to the five (5) recommendations the Interagency Committee agreed should be communicated to Governor Schwinden. They are found on page 3 of the December 10th, 1980 minutes.

We concur with items 1 through 4 as stated in the minutes.

Item 5 says

"Develop an eight bed facility for younger moderately disturbed children. Warm Springs and others are receiving a larger number of referrals for younger children, and there are no facilities in the state to provide treatment. The estimate for this would be \$340,000 for the biennium plus \$100,000 through the local school district for special education services."

I am pleased to inform the Interagency Committee that Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch presently has an eight-bed facility designed to accommodate younger moderately disturbed children and we are ready to make it available on very short notice to meet this particular need.

In fact, "meeting the needs of younger boys" (and now girls) has been our primary concern ever since Yellowstone Boys Ranch was started, way back in 1957. A one-sentence definition of the original objective in starting the Ranch was "to intercept the younger boy in trouble and keep him from ever having a reform school experience."

This objective has been accomplished in the lives of hundreds and hundreds of boys and is still happening to this very day.

Added to this, in recent years, has been all the complex treatment programs needed to care for the emotionally disturbed boy in whatever level of care is required and in an expanded age range all the way from 5 years to 18 years. And now we have separate and equal residential treatment for emotionally disturbed girls.

The younger child is our greatest concern and we have the facilities, treatment programs and professional staff to meet their needs. Our entire physical plant has been 100% paid for with private contributions (at no cost to the State) and our purchase-of-care fees have consistantly been less than the cost of equal care in State Institutions.

The facility mentioned earlier, which we are willing to make available for the treatment of eight moderately disturbed children, was originally designed to accommodate 14 boys. As we moved in the direction of caring for more disturbed boys, this facility was remodeled and modified to accommodate 8 seriously disturbed boys and it has served us well in this capacity for the past three years. We, therefore, feel it can certainly accommodate 8 moderately disturbed younger children and could very easily be adapted for co-ed living with younger children. The bedrooms are on two separate levels, with a bathroom on each level.

This unit has a self-contained dining room and prepared meals are brought in from our central kitchen, just across the street. This is to accommodate those children too disturbed to associate with others, even at mealtime. If they are later able to handle the liberties of the central dining room, this also is just across the street.

The building also has a self-contained classroom for Special Education schooling under the direct administration of our on-campus, fully accredited Elementary Special Education School.

It has a three-bedroom apartment, complete with private kitchen and dining for live-in teaching parents and counseling rooms for additional shift personnel.

Other advantages to our unique location include:

The convenience of the on-campus Special Education Elementary School to which the children can progress as rapidly as possible.

A very adequate Physical Education Center, staffed with trained teachers and therapists.

Playground facilities designed by professional architects knowledgeable in the needs of disturbed children.

An entire professional staff of back-up people on-campus and immediately available for any kind of crisis intervention or assistance which may be required in coping with the unexpected.

And, best of all, this program is interlocked with five additional levels of care so each child can progress to the least restrictive alternative as soon as their response to treatment indicates they are ready. And, the cost of care will be less than what it would cost the State to provide equal care in a state financed facility built with tax payers money.

The other item needing clarification is the second item mentioned on page one of this letter. It has to do with the topic under discussion on page 3, paragraph 5 which says:

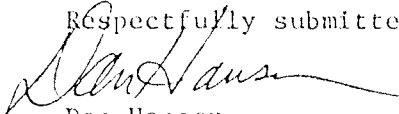
"Develop an eight bed facility for younger moderately disturbed children. Warm Springs and others are receiving a larger number of referrals for younger children, and there are no facilities in the state to provide treatment. The estimate for this would be \$340,000 for the biennium plus \$100,000 through the local school district for special education services."

In discussing this particular item with the Committee, it was my intention to say we now have our new 20-bed Assessment-Treatment Center (completed in April of 1980) with a girls wing and a boys wing which we would be willing to restrict to Diagnostic Assessment exclusively - IF - the need for Assessment, on a state-wide basis, warrants such a move. However, we would need some lead time to develop alternate accomodations for the boys now being served in the Residential Treatment section of this building.

Our new Residential Treatment Lodge for 8 girls will be completed and ready for occupancy by May 1st, 1981 - and - we expect to start construction on a second 8-bed unit for girls as soon as this one is finished.

Thank you for bearing with me in this lengthy review of our thoughts on these matters. I look forward to future meetings of the Interagency Committee for Handicapped Children when further discussions will be possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Hansen
Administrator

DH/pc

P.S. Attachments

While I have addressed a couple of specific needs in the above letter, I encourage you to take a few extra minutes to review the attached material. This is the philosophy we have adopted for the decade of the 80's.

YELLOWSTONE BOYS and GIRLS RANCH
Review of Services
to
Montana Interagency Committee for Handicap Children
January 1981

Dr. Larry Brendtro, Director of Starr Commonwealth in Michigan and currently servicing as President of the National Association of Homes for Children, recently emphasized this point at a National Convention: "The critical issues facing service to troubled youth in the decade of the 80's is Resources, Accountability and Mission."

This concept coupled with recent surveys of various state agencies identifying numerous troubled youth in need of specialized services presents this problem.

Never before in Montana have we identified so many youth in need of services but with limited resources available to appropriately and effectively meet those needs.

It is critical that the public and private sectors within the state coordinate their efforts and work together as closely as possible in making provision for these needed services. Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch realizes that it plays a significant role in providing quality services specifically for troubled youth identified as moderately to seriously emotionally disturbed with various social, behavioral, educational and psychological handicaps.

We believe it would be beneficial at this point of critical decision making to review to this Committee:

- a. What we are doing presently
- b. What we plan to do shortly
- c. What we could do in the near future.

Applying Dr. Brendtro's assessment outline in reverse to briefly evaluate the YBGR program.

MISSION

YBGR has committed itself to providing the highest quality, professional, residential treatment services to troubled adolescents and children. We have developed a continuum of services to best meet a broad spectrum of treatment throughout the program. We have succeeded in coordinating a total treatment mileau to address the variety and complexity of handicaps present with each individual appropriate to our program.

It is our desire, that provided with the opportunity and accurate assessment of need, to develop whatever program, resources and facilities necessary to meet a significant portion of the services needed.

We maintain a practical yet progressive attitude toward growth and development of program. We are willing and have the capability to successfully attempt new concepts to provide better and more complete services to youth. Our history bears witness to that fact.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We live in a time when residential care nationwide has been under critical attack and close scrutiny. We believe that programs that serve youth should be accountable to provide to the best of their ability the service they promise in a quality manner. We feel a strong responsibility to the people of Montana who support us and the agencies, families and children we serve.

We have strived to seek and attain the highest standards possible for an agency such as ours. We desire to be open to appropriate and responsible scrutiny and review by the public and appointed monitoring agencies.

The Result:

1. YBGR is duly licensed as a child care agency by the State of Montana SRS.

The various Levels of care are reviewed and licensed separately, meeting

the unique standards applicable to each.

2. YBGR is accredited by JCAH, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, as a psychiatric treatment facility for adolescents and children. There are several National Accrediting programs, but this is universally recognized as the highest accreditation a program can attain. Its standards and review process is exhaustive and comprehensive. YBGR has a two-year accreditation - the highest available. We are the only such accredited residential program within this region of the United States.
3. YBGR is accredited by O'CHAMPUS, a similarly comprehensive review as JCAH.
4. To further involve peer review and the community, YBGR is currently seeking NAHC (National Association of Homes for Children) Accreditation. This is specifically geared to involve the community and similar residential agencies in evaluating our program.

RESOURCES

YBGR, over the years of its existence, has developed a modest but solid "family of donors" who support our efforts. These friends help in two basic ways.

1. Provide funds for the daily care and treatment of youth which helps defray the entire expense of our service to a referring agency.
2. Provide funds for construction of facilities and development of newly needed programs. Not a dime of State money has ever been expended on the multi-million dollar quality facilities at the Ranch.

This reduces the ultimate total cost to the taxpayer of this potentially expensive service.

YBGR believes that:

- a. If a specific need is identified and justified,
- b. A specialized, additional new facility is determined as needed,
- c. That need fits the capability of our program services,
- d. Enough lead time is allowed to develop resources,
- e. It would be irresponsible to expend taxpayers money to build such a unit if YBGR has the capability of resources and program to meet that need.

(YBGR can construct a facility at much less than standard costs due to significant contributions of planning, materials and labor.)

YBGR continues to slowly but surely develop an endowment fund that will eventually provide considerable funds for care and services which would further reduce the cost to referral agencies.

Over recent years we have taken bold and pioneering action to evaluate and develop our Mission, Accountability and Resources. We plan this to continue in the years ahead.

We ask this to be seriously considered as we move more and more toward a State Master Plan to provide needed services.

Review of Current Existing Services

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>CAPACITY (Beds)</u>
<u>Boys Treatment</u>	
Level VI -Intensive Treatment (Secure)	10
Level V -Intensive Treatment (Non-secure)	16
Level IV -Semi-Intensive Treatment	16
Level III -Intermediate Treatment (Campus based) (Includes 10-bed unit for younger boys)	34
Level II -Group Homes (Community based)	24
Level I -Independent living--"Bachelor survival)	3
 <u>Girls Treatment</u>	
Level VI -Intensive Treatment	4
<u>Assessment - Boys and Girls</u>	6
	<hr/>
Current Total Capacity - All Programs	113

Services to be Added - 1981

GIRLS TREATMENT

1. One new Girls Cottage now under construction, to be completed by May 1981 - Capacity, 8. Level IV and V.
2. Second Girls Cottage scheduled to start construction by June 1981 and completed by the end of the year. Capacity - 8. Level IV and V.

This adds a total of 16 beds to our current capacity for girls.

Possible addition of another community Group Home for boys in 1981 - Capacity - 6.

SPECIAL NOTE: Reflecting on the specific recommendation of the IC Committee that additional facilities are needed for treatment of younger seriously emotionally disturbed children - YBGR would consider converting an already existing 8-bed unit to serve the needs of younger boys.

PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES in the NEXT FEW YEARS

1. Develop a community Group Home for Girls within one year - Capacity - 6.

Addressing the Expressed Need for Diagnostic Services -

2. YBGR would be willing to consider converting its already existing

new Assessment-Treatment Center into a facility entirely devoted to diagnostic services if there can be a commitment that it would be utilized. This unit is specifically designed for just such services. It includes an educational wing as well. It is a secure facility and JCAH accredited. It is designed with a girls wing and a boys wing, physically separated. Total capacity would be 12 boys and 8 girls.

In order to do this, we would need to construct another Level VI secure intensive unit for boys to replace that portion of the existing Assessment-Treatment building that is now used for that purpose.

We would need some lead time to accomplish this.

FEATURED COMPONENTS OF THE UNIQUE YBCR PROGRAM

1. Total Treatment Philosophy
2. Controlled Therapeutic Community
3. Eclectic approach to treatment modes
4. Trained--professional--committed-caring staff
5. Total staff involved in treatment process
6. Continuum of services--level system--campus setting--community based group homes
7. Family style group living--houseparent model
8. Excellent supervision ratio--allows for healthy teaching process
9. Individualized treatment planning
10. Comprehensive Education program
 - a. Special education
 - b. Individualized programming--instruction
 - c. Various classroom settings--campus school, self-contained classrooms--community schools
 - d. Least restrictive alternative approach
 - e. Vocational program
 - f. Work study
11. Formal Therapy
 - a. Psycho-therapy
Highly trained-credentialed clinical staff
 - b. Adjunctive therapy
Recreational-vocational-art-physical
12. Family therapy
13. Motivation system--behavior modification
14. Comprehensive work experience program
Reality based--foundation of program
15. Reality based--community economic system
16. Recreation and athletics
 - a. Broad spectrum of interests
 - b. Competitive and non-competitive
17. Arts and crafts
18. Music program
Choir-Bell Choir--Puppets-Music lessons
19. Expressive Arts
Drama--photography--etc.
20. Strong religious-chapel program
 - a. On-campus Chaplain
 - b. Excellent religious education
 - c. Children involvement
21. Comprehensive Wilderness experience program
22. Agricultural setting
23. Environmental therapy:
Positive attitudes--good food--clean and neat facilities and campus. Appearance, manners stressed, etc.
24. Community involvement
25. Excellent medical services and care
26. Psychiatric care and consultation
27. Fully accredited and licensed:
 - a. Joint Commission for Accreditation of Hospitals--Psychiatric
 - b. CHAMPUS Facility
 - c. State of Montana
 - d. National Association of Homes for Children



South Central Montana Regional
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

1245 N. 29th
Billings, Montana 59101
Ph. (406) 252-5658

April 13, 1981

To Whom It May Concern:

Relocation and facilities to care for increased numbers of severely emotionally impaired children and youth currently in Warm Springs State Hospital should be supported by all Montanans.

If the decision should be made to go ahead with the proposal, and if the site selected is Billings, all of us at the Mental Health Center will enthusiastically support the project.

Advantages to a location in Billings include:

- a. a large number of local health and behavioral specialists
- b. a large general labor pool
- c. two institutions of higher learning
- d. a proven track record of support in the community for group home aftercare placement
- e. a central east to west location in the state

Sincerely,

Bryce G. Hughett, M.D.
Regional Mental Health Director

BGH:jc