

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING  
April 14, 1961 CHILDREN'S UNIT

The meeting was called to order by JACK K. MOORE, Chairman at 3:00 p.m. in Room 104. All Committee members were present except SEN. HIMSL who was excused. Also in attendance was BOB ROBINSON, Fiscal Analyst.

THE CHAIRMAN stated this special meeting was as a result of the findings of the Subcommittee regarding the Children's Unit. He asked REP. DONALDSON to give the results of their findings.

REP. DONALDSON stated their committee of three visited the Warm Springs facility on Saturday, and checked on the site in Anaconda. Yesterday morning they heard from the people in the Institutions regarding their concerns, today they heard from delegations from Billings, Missoula and Anaconda. Their conclusions are that there should be a 60 bed unit constructed. There are approximately 140 children identified in the state with needs for this service. The present program has 80% recovery rate in returning these children back to a normal situation. There are many children not being served at this point. Most of these children have a wide range of family problems. The Committee also decided the best possible site would be in the Billings area, because an area of this size would offer services, that this facility would need. The Billings area has shown a great deal of leadership in these areas because they have requested life skill centers, group homes, and the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. Their recommendation is to increase the bonding and the bill by \$2,626,000 for the Children's Unit. There are several sites available.

REP. HURWITZ stated there were several disappointed communities, but he felt Billings was the best site.

SEN. THOMAS feels the Committee in such short time, did a good job. He stated the consensus of opinion was that the Unit be located close to a larger city so that medical and psychological services could be provided. Billings has the best of these types of services.

REP. DONALDSON stated the 60 bed unit proposed would be similar to a modular unit in groups of four, fifteen bed units. He noted that PHIL HAUCK has confirmed this cost estimate, however, there may be some additional cost regarding hooking up the sewer and water.

REP. BARDANOUVE felt specifically naming a site may cause opposition, and there is also some opposition to a 60 bed unit, and perhaps a compromise may be a 45 bed unit.

REP. DONALDSON stated the opposition to the 60 bed unit did dissipate once it was confirmed it would be built along the

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lines of four, fifteen bed units, rather than a large dormitory facility. He feels there is not an imaginary waiting list, there is a real need for this unit at 60 beds. He stated some people throughout the state would like to have one 20 bed unit placed in one area of the state, and a 20 bed unit placed elsewhere. Due to the high cost of running a Unit such as this it would not be economically feasible. The cost calculated at this time is approximately \$100 a day per child.

SEN. HAFLEY asked what specific criteria did the Committee use in deciding Billings as the proposed site.

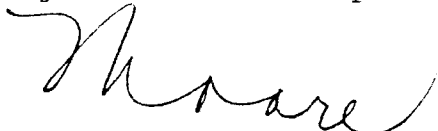
REP. DONALDSON stated they were looking at support facilities such as hospitals, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other support units necessary for this type of program. He was also interested in the attitude of the community in absorbing this type of facility, which Billings has shown in the recent past. Transportation accessibility plus the attraction to professional recruitment was also a consideration.

REP. DONALDSON moved to amend HB 666 for the 60 bed Children's Unit in the amount of \$2,626,000. A roll call vote was called. THE MOTION PASSED with six in favor and two opposed. Those opposed were REP. MOORE, and SEN. ETCHART.

REP. DONALDSON moved to have the construction site in Billings. A roll call vote was called. THE MOTION PASSED with five in favor and three opposed. Those opposed were REP. BARDANOUVE, SEN. HAFLEY, and REP. MANUEL.

REP. HURWITZ moved that if the \$2,626,000 is amended to HB 666, then HB 563 will be amended accordingly. A roll call vote was called. THE MOTION PASSED with seven in favor and one opposed. SEN. ETCHART opposed.

There being no further discussion or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



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JACK K. MOORE, Chairman

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