

HUMAN SERVICES

SUB COMMITTEE

DATE 2/18/83

[illegible]

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE _____ COMMITTEE _____

BILL _____ DATE _____

SPONSOR _____

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
GEOFF BIRNBAUM	MISSOULA	MISSOULA YOUTH HOME	✓	
"	"	YOUTH JUSTICE COUNCIL	✓	
Tom Drøger	Helena	Inter-Mountain Deaconess		
Dan Hansen	Billings	YBGR		
Robert Federico	Billings	VOA / ^{Truckee Homes} Caretaker	X	
Suzanne Tiddy	Helena	Mt. Residential Child Care Assoc	X	
Earl Old Person	Browning	Chairman Black Feet	X	
Carol Bucher	Gt. Falls	Montana Coalition ^{against} Domestic Violence	✓	
Marie Edwards	Gt. Falls	Spouse Abuse Funding	✓	
Brenda Bucher	Gt. Falls	Self Spouse Abuse funding	✓	
Nancy Lane	Gt. Falls	Domestic Violence funding	✓	
Celinda Lake	Gt. Falls	Women's ^{Shelter} Fund	✓	
Marion L. Dozer	Billings	Domestic Violence ^{and funding for} foster care	✓	
Marion L. Dozer	Billings	Citizen/water/tax paper	✓	

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

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON HUMAN SERVICES
February 18, 1983

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Sen. Pete Story. All subcommittee members were present except for Chairman Shontz.

Also present were: Mr. John LaFaver, Ben Johns, Norma Vestre, and Lee Tickell from the Department of SRS; Peggy Williams and Larry Finch from the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office and many others who were present to testify for the foster care and aging programs in the SRS budget.

Begin Tape 43 Side 2

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FOSTER CARE

1. GEOFF BIRNBAUM, from Missoula, Montana representing the Missoula Youth Home and Youth Justice Council, passed out written testimony from the Youth Justice Council regarding the proposed SRS budget for foster care services. (see exhibit 1) He and his wife have been foster parents to a number of youth over the past 12 years and have worked with three major Montana placing agencies. He feels group homes are not a frill nor any longer an innovation to the system, but are a very important part. In viewing the reduction of non-serious offenders in county jails and the increased time taken with youth in crisis, sheltered care homes are playing their part in the system. Now, they are an integral and expected part of the court system throughout the state. He feels it is time to further develop the partnership between state government and concerned communities to better serve troubled youth. According to Mr. Birnbaum, this year offers a unique opportunity through HB24 to establish SRS as singly responsible for residential care in the community through appropriation of the foster care budget within SRS. Private partners have also done their share; private support now pays 1/5 or 20% of the annual operating costs. He explained how their rates might seem excessive but are really not by going back to the home's history of establishing rates and looking at a 7 year average of costs to the group homes in his area.

He feels the rate increases, although not excessive, would compare with any index one might use for prices, further that they were susceptible to what the consumer price index was based upon. He reiterated the additional costs incurred since 1977, the higher cost of fuel bills, food, etc, with the hiring of staff, counselors, etc. He feels the rates in this state are low with what is paid in other states. He feels the rate system was flawed and cannot be implemented within the limits set by the budget. SRS did not ask for any supplemental appropriations and they have just scraped by for the past two years. Mr. Birnbaum feels there is a need to provide better funding for better care. He believes the executive budget is a "bare bones" approach to funding, but will allow

continued survival while costs and further services are further studied. He urged passing a minimum of 6% increase in rates for the 4% increase in the total number of children served and budget \$250,000 per year to "beefing up" their system to better serve emotionally disturbed children.

2. Next to testify was MR. ROBERT FREDRICO, from Billings, who is Unit Supervisor for the VOA and Professional Treatment Homes Program (see exhibit 2) He stated support for the Governor's budget and opposition to the LFA proposal. He went on to describe his program as care for the moderately disturbed youth in individual family homes in the community. The goal is to avoid unnecessary and inappropriate institutionalization, to allow youth to remain in the community while receiving treatment, and help them become productive, well-adjusted citizens.

His organization opposes the \$2.1 million budget over the biennium. He stated that caring for a youth in an institutional setting is from 2 to 5 times more costly than community-based foster care, citing the projected cost of placement for a youth in the newly proposed institution for emotionally disturbed in Billings at \$52,000 a year or over \$4,000 a month. He feels that home-based care is the most cost-effective treatment available. The Governor's proposal, which he supports, provides for continued development of community-based placements and provides appropriate treatment alternatives. He urged support for funding adequate care for emotionally disturbed children and maintain the Governor's proposal in support of the executive budget.

Sen. Aklestad asked for an itemized documentation of costs at \$52,000 per year for this program. Sen. Regan also questioned the figures. Rep. Bardanoue suggested that, if they want figures, to check with Rep. Waldron as his committee is working on this area now.

In response to questions from the committee members, Mr. Fredrico stated he was supporting the foster care for moderately disturbed children.

3. CELINDA LAKE of the Women's Lobbyist Fund, submitted a letter from Nora Siegel, public health nurse in Billings, in support of current funding of the foster care program. (see exhibit 3)

4. SUZANNE TIDDY, representing the Montana Residential Child Care Association, testified next. She said she appreciates the difficult decisions the committee has to make on budget issues. Her organization is aware of the lean financial times, but their services to children and youth are in the realm of prevention. As such, they feel they are considerably cost effective. They urge consideration of the budget and not to make any cuts. (see exhibit 4)

5. MR. EARL OLD PERSON, Chairman of the Blackfoot Tribe, explained that he had been on the council since 1954 and has watched the various activities that have taken place on the reservation. They have tried in every way to help correct the kind of situations they have there and if there is more that they can do to help young people, they would like to do so. In order for them to continue the White Buffalo group home in Browning, they will have to have help in funding. They foresee serious problems if any decreases are made. He urged the committee to support them.

6. MS. EUNICE ASH, President of the Montana State Foster Parents Association, urged the committee to "please not cut the medicaid care." Even if they do not get the 6% increase, they do want and need the medicaid help.

7. DAN HANSON, Associate Administrator of the Yellowstone Boys Ranch in Billings, testified. The Ranch is licensed to serve 124 children and services range from community group homes to full continuum of services with levels of care for severely emotionally disturbed children. Unlike any other organization within their region, they are accredited by two national accrediting agencies.

Over the years, they have worked closely with state agencies and have developed a good communications base and mutual respect. Unless the Governor's budget is approved, the programs are in trouble. The children coming to them are much more disturbed and the Ranch is getting many more referrals. They feel this is because their prices are lower and the quality of care is better than that in surrounding states. Mr. Hanson urged the committee not to forget the kids. He noted that they can't come in and testify to their needs--and they must be taken care of.

8. DWIGHT McCABE, County Commissioner from Yellowstone County, appeared next before the committee. He also submitted written testimony from Ted Lechner, Director of Court Services, and from Pau Sauer, M.D. (see exhibit 5 and exhibit 6)

He explained that Yellowstone County is experiencing problems like those in bigger cities and urban areas in regard to moderately and severely disturbed children. He noted that Dr. Sauer's letter talks of explosive situations occurring every day in many homes and the number is increasing. Sexual abuse cases have increased three-fold in the last three years. A team approach has been established with doctors, lawyers, and physicians for these children; the team is discovering more needs every day. He feels that if SRS doesn't deal with these children at the first level of care, the court is going to deal with them as delinquent youth and they will eventually be submitted to the Department of Institutions. He feels Yellowstone County cannot be the "safety net" for some of the state-mandated programs. Children in crisis must be dealt with; if not, we are in serious trouble. He closed by asking, "Are the children a priority for the state of Montana?"

9. MYRTLE SMITH, President of the Big Sky Foster Parent's Association, spoke next. She said that as foster parents, they work closely with Yellowstone County and have been foster parents themselves for 5 years. She fears that, under the LFA budget, needs of her foster children would not be met. She encouraged the committee to give the children "the break they so richly deserve" to become stable and contributing adults, urging that there be no funds cut. She felt the \$2.1 million is a lot to cut from the 4% that represents foster care in the budget. (see exhibit 7)

Rep. Winslow asked what \$2.1 million cut Ms. Smith was referring to. He believes this amount is just the difference in perception of foster care costs, not a cut in the budget. Mr. LaFaver interjected that he felt that, from present cuts, it is indeed a cut.

10. CLIFF MURPHY, Legislative Chairman of the Mental Health Association of Montana told the committee he was here to ask for funds, specifically \$500,000 of new funds in the SRS budget. These funds would be used for new programs for children and youth and for some expansion of treatment capacity for emotionally disturbed children. He strongly believes that there is a great unmet need for therapeutic services for moderately and less-disturbed youth and children. Another reason to realize the need for this type of service surfaces when you look at the history of youth who get to Warm Springs. It was suggested that the right type of therapeutic service is not getting to youth at the right time. Mr. Murphy's organization supports the expansion of services because he feels some effort is being made by the department. If the department is given more responsibility, through passage of HB24, the department can take the initiative of asking for more funds. He organization applauds this.

11. BOBBI CURTIS, from Great Falls, read a letter from Judge Coder, 8th Judicial District Court in Great Falls. The letter urged support of expansion services for emotionally disturbed children. The judge feels the department requires the total requested appropriation for both foster care and institutional placements. (see exhibit 8)

Ms. Curtis also told the committee she was an executive coordinator of the Foster Parent's Association. She said she works with the state foster parents and is not a professional speaker, but a professional in caring for children. She explained her view of the effect on the children she cares for from cuts that have been made in the past year. She said there was "no way" that foster families can absorb any more reductions or losses. She asked that the committee please consider the SRS budget and give strong consideration to specialized foster care.

End of Tape 43 Side 2 Begin Tape 44 Side 1

12. BRUCE McCRACKEN, farmer and rancher in the Shelby, Conrad area in Pondera County, told the committee he had served as Chairman of Pondera County Advisory Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse. In his volunteer work in this field, he has been in contact with children and young people with specialized needs. He said these children cannot speak for themselves and cannot provide for themselves. Because expenditures for human services in this state are vital, necessary, and are the responsibility of all of us, he urged strongly as a parent, grandparent, and responsible human being the support of the Governor's budget.

13. DR. BAILEY MOLINEUX, representing the Montana Psychological Association, spoke on behalf of children who are troubled and who cause trouble. He feels most are depressed and that most can be treated successfully, but not on a once a week basis. They can be turned from lives of crime and dependence on welfare and mental illness into useful, productive, taxpaying citizens. His plea is that the committee consider money spent on these children not as an expenditure for custodial care but as an investment in their futures, an investment on which the taxpayers can get a return. If we don't treat such children now, we will be burdened with the expense and problems for much of their lives.

Responding to Sen. Regan's question as to what specific program he was addressing, he told her it was the \$500,000 expansion for mental health. (see exhibit 9)

14. PAM TANNER, a foster parent from Great Falls, expressed concern for the needs of the children, predicting that in the future more children will be in need of services. Children are the future of Montana. She feels that, in her understanding of the budget, much of the controversy is in prediction of needs. She requests that this be handled very carefully. She stressed that if there are any more reductions in foster care, they, as one set of parents, would not be able to handle the expenses of caring for their foster child. Many foster families will be forced to leave the program if this were to occur.

15. TOM DROOGER, Administrator of the Intermountain-Deaconess Home, stated he was in support of the Governor's budget and urged its passage.

Hearings were then closed on Foster Care.

Exhibits 10, 11 and 12 were also turned into the committee in support of the SRS budget for foster care from Sara Marshall, the Florence Crittenton Home and the Achievement Place in Helena.

AGING PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. MR. HAROLD GUTHRIE, a member of the board of LISCA and a resident of Livingston, Montana, explained his concern for the funding of SRS programs that affect senior citizens. He told the committee there are presently more than 120,000 senior citizens in the state or about 17% of the entire population. Seniors have more intense medical needs, are more likely to experience serious illness, and are more likely to experience isolation and suffering when loved ones die. He asked what government is doing for seniors after they have done their part in society over the past 60 to 80 years. He noted that, as everyone is aware, Congress is debating at present whether dollars they have contributed to the social security program for their retirement will be reduced or withheld. He believes two budget programs have been offered; one is an executive budget he feels is insufficient and the other is the LFA budget which in comparison makes the insufficiencies of the Governor's budget look generous.

Mr. Guthrie feels that if the state agency grants were adopted, it will affect them with 25% less recommendation on the part of the LFA and more than \$50,000 less home services for a total of \$171,000 less than they are now getting. He feels that, despite more senior citizens in our state, despite more reduced federal dollars for senior programs, despite constant needs for these people, despite employment, and steady increases in food and energy, the committee is being presented with options that will allow them only to select inadequate or harmful funding. (see witness exhibit 13)

2. CHARLES BRIGGS, Governor's Office State Aging Coordinator, addressed some of what he saw as implications of the LFA budget. He stressed the difference between what the LFA is projecting for the forthcoming biennium as compared to the past biennium, concentrating on aging and adult protective services. He said that in-home services is maintained, basically at current rate of \$125,000 per year. There is no cost of living adjustment and the LFA is \$50,198 less than the executive over the biennium. For information and referral, LFA projects a reasonable increase with little difference from the executive recommendation. On state agency grants or general grants to aging programs, there is a significant contrast with the current biennium. The LFA projects \$9,000 less in FY84 than in FY82. So nearly \$50,000 less in state general funds is recommended by the LFA than what is currently in place.

In total state grants, there is nearly \$25,000 less over the '85 biennium than that in the past biennium. Mr. Briggs asked why and stressed that the committee bear in mind the priorities of human services and the long range cost. He feels we need to see

services and cost in human terms. He pointed out that Missoula has 34% of the aged population living in western Montana and 7 1/2% of the state's entire aging population. With the state of the economy, the reliance upon social services is multiplying every year. Mr. Briggs is concerned about the reduction in social worker staff of 18 FTE that was referred to yesterday by the department, pointing out that 15 of these are now involved in direct contact with services to adults, with majority of these senior citizens. He closed by citing as an example a typical couple in their seventies who have raised a family, noting the importance of the social workers to their lives and the services they require. If services are withdrawn, one or the other will end up in a nursing home, without aid, they will increase the dependence either upon medicaid or other kinds of assistance that are available in nursing homes. This trend is called adaptive regression and people deteriorate under it. Nursing home care would cost medicaid \$30,000 a year roughly per couple. Mr. Briggs feels it is better to keep them at home, and for this same dollar figure, hire another social worker and keep more at home for less, support independent living and increase support in their community. (see exhibit 14)

3. HELEN HAEGELE, a member of the board of the Montana Senior Citizens, conveyed that group's support of a strong and financially healthy appropriation for the aging services which will provide independent living and longevity and quality of life for older Montanans. They are asking the appropriations committee to continue to act as an advocate for the elderly in Montana and hope the committee will adopt the executive budget for 1984 and 1985. (see exhibit 15)

BATTERED SPOUSES AGENCY HEARING

1. MS. CELINDA LAKE, Women's Lobbyist Fund, told the committee that the organization had put together a packet for the committee to read concerning battered women and spouses. This type of violence is apparently on the increase and is especially evident in bad times, such as those we are facing now. In FY82, 3,448 men, women and children were recipients of the domestic violence aid provided by the state government. One national survey reports there is a battering every 18 minutes. (see exhibit 16 and 17)

Ms. Lake introduced CARYL BORCHERS, Executive Director of the Great Falls Mercy Home. Ms. Borchers urged the continued funding of the domestic violence grant program with the 6% increase in both the LFA budget and in the Governor's budget over and above funds received from marriage license fees. As the first shelter in Montana the Great Falls home was able to spearhead the creation of 7 other shelters throughout Montana. (see exhibit 18)

Due to the legislature's request, in 1978 a task force to study and act on this issue was appointed by the Governor comprised of people from all over the state. Ms. Borchers was chairman of this task force for 4 1/2 years. In October of 1982, the name was changed to The Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. They use the state packet handout materials for all of their education throughout the state. Ms. Borchers said she had generated over \$120,000 in private church and foundation monies in Great Falls in the last four years, so she feels one can see the need for general fund support for this worthy program. She is proud of Montana and what has been accomplished.

She then introduced MARIE (last name withheld) who testified she is presently in the Mercy Home. She wanted to express her gratitude and thanks for the help she is receiving for herself and her children.

She also introduced NANCY (last name withheld) who had lived in the shelter in the past. She explained she had been in a violent situation for 14 years. She explained how much help she had received for herself and her children. She urged that the funding for this program continue.

A letter from Judge McPhilips from Shelby, Montana supporting total support of the SRS budget appropriation request was submitted. Testimony from Judy Cox advocating in-home services legislation was also turned in.


The next meeting will be on Monday, February 21, 1983 at 7 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

End of Tape 44 Side 1



John Shontz, Chairman



Carol Duval, Secretary



BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

303 NORTH ROBERTS
~~SCOTT HART BUILDING~~
SCOTT HART BUILDING
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
TELEPHONE No. 449-3604

February 17, 1983

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Joint Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Human Services
Montana State Legislature
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Legislator:

The Youth Justice Council, mandated by Federal Law, appointed by the Governor, is a citizen's group, comprised of Montana's with a strong commitment to and knowledge of juvenile justice and delinquency. The Council services to administer federal funds to develop the youth services system and to, generally, advise state government on issues, as they relate to delinquency prevention and juvenile justice.

Over the past years the Council has invested a good deal of our resources in the development of residential care for the troubled young people of our state. We are quite concerned about the future strength of these services.

You will have before you the decision as to funding for residential care for youngsters. It will come to you as part of the Department of S.R.S. budget, within Community Services Division, under "Foster Care For Children". There seems quite a disparity of opinion about the amount needed and appropriate for this item.

Many factors have been used to "adjust" the figures. The one fact that seems missing is a study of the actual cost. We believe the providers have been struggling along with minimal funding, with the original base funding inadequate to address the problem. Any factoring of this "base" will do nothing but "multiply our error" of the past.

We would hope that you might find the time to look into the "actual cost" of residential care so that this needed service is not cut any further. We hope you will be give these services and these youth your priority and every consideration for adequate funding.

Sincerely,

Carle F. O'Neil, Chairman
Youth Justice Council

MR CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MY NAME IS ROBERT M. FEDERICO. I RESIDE AT 4234 JANSMA IN BILLINGS. I AM THE UNIT SUPERVISOR FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA'S CARE AND PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT HOMES PROGRAM.

AS A TREATMENT PARENT FOR TWO EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH, WITH ONE BEING DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED, AND AS A UNIT SUPERVISOR FOR OTHER TREATMENT PARENTS AND THEIR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH, I AM IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL AND OPPOSE THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST'S PROPOSAL.

THE CARE AND PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT HOMES PROGRAM FOCUSES ON THE TREATMENT OF MODERATELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH IN INDIVIDUAL FAMILY HOMES IN THE COMMUNITY. EACH FAMILY IS CAREFULLY SELECTED, TRAINED AND SUPERVISED IN THEIR CARE OF THE YOUTH.

THE GOALS OF OUR PROGRAM ARE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY/INAPPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, TO ALLOW THE YOUTH TO REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY WHILE RECEIVING TREATMENT, AND TO HELP YOUTH WORK TOWARD BECOMING A PRODUCTIVE, WELL ADJUSTED CITIZEN.

WE OPPOSE THE PROPOSED FISCAL BUDGET OF 2.1 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM.

IN THE 1982 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ON EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN, A PLAN TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO MONTANA'S EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN AND YOUTH, THE NUMBER ONE RECOMMENDATION WAS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE 500 CHILDREN AND YOUTH DIAGNOSED AS BEING MODERATELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED. THIS MEANS THAT THE YOUTH'S NEEDS IN 1982 WERE NOT BEING MET BY SERVICES AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDING. OVER THE PAST YEAR, OUR PROGRAM RECEIVED OVER ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS IN NEED OF RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION. THE REFERRALS ARE CONTINUING

ASTONISHINGLY, THE COST OF CARE FOR A YOUTH IN AN INSTITUTIONAL SETTING IS ANYWHERE FROM 2 TO 5 TIMES HIGHER THAN COMMUNITY BASED FOSTER CARE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROJECTED COST OF PLACEMENT FOR A YOUTH IN THE NEWLY PROPOSED INSTITUTION FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED IN BILLINGS WOULD COST \$52,000.00 A YEAR OR OVER \$4,000.00 A MONTH, BASED ON 100% OCCUPANCY -- AND THIS AMOUNT DOES NOT REFLECT THE COST OF THE BUILDING. THE TOTAL COST FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AT WARM SPRINGS IS MUCH HIGHER. IN ADDITION, AND TYPICALLY, OUT OF STATE AND IN-STATE PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS RANGE FROM \$25,000.00 TO \$40,000.00 IN PLACEMENT COSTS. CLEARLY HOME BASED COMMUNITY CARE FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE TREATMENT AVAILABLE.

THE NEED TO SERVE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN AND YOUTH IS INCREASING NOT DECREASING. UNLESS THE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED YOUTH OF MONTANA GET THE SERVICES THEY NEED, THEY WILL END UP IN THE MENTAL HOSPITAL OR PRISONS. AN OUTRAGIOUS EXAMPLE OF THIS IS LEE HARVEY OSWALD, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AT THE AGE OF 13. HE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY SERVICES.

THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL, WHICH WE SUPPORT, PROVIDES FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED PLACEMENTS. THUS PROVIDING APPROPRIATE TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND AVOIDING INAPPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF YOUTH. YOUTH THAT HAVE BEEN TREATED IN A FAMILY AND A COMMUNITY BASED SETTING RECEIVE OPTIMUM, APPROPRIATE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE YOUTH INVOLVING THEIR FAMILIES, IF POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITY BASED PLACEMENTS AS THE MOST EFFICIENT, COOPERATIVE, AND COST EFFECTIVE AVAILABLE.

ENCOURAGE YOU STRONGLY TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROBLEM AFFECTING EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN IS SEVERE -- NOT ONLY ARE THEY UNDERSERVED, BUT MANY ARE UNSERVED.

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT TO FUND ADEQUATE FOSTER CARE FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN AND MAINTAIN THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED PLACEMENTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

BILLINGS YOUTH HOME
P. O. BOX 20234
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59104

17 FEBRUARY, 1983

JOHN SHONTZ, CHAIRMAN
JOINT HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

DEAR MR. SHONTZ AND COMMITTEE:

IMAGINE BEING 14 YEARS OLD AND BEING RAPED BY A 19 YEAR OLD BOY WHOM YOU BARELY KNOW. THE TRAUMA OF THIS EVENT ALONE IS ALMOST UNTHINKABLE. HOWEVER, IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD BE IF YOUR MOTHER AND SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS BLAMED YOU FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AND NOT ONLY CONDEMNED YOU FOR IT BUT EFFECTIVELY OSTRACISED YOU AS WELL. WHERE WOULD YOU TURN?

IMAGINE BEING A TEENAGE GIRL WHO HAS BEEN SHUFFLED AROUND FROM ONE RELATIVE TO ANOTHER FOR MOST OF HER LIFE AND TRYING TO GROW UP NORMALLY WHEN EACH RELATIVE WOULD PASS HER TO ANOTHER WHENEVER SHE BECAME "INCONVENIENT" OR BURDENSOME. IT IS HEART BREAKING FOR A HELPING PROFESSIONAL TO LISTEN TO THIS GIRL SOBBING FOR "JUST SOME FAMILY TO LOVE ME AND CARE ABOUT ME." HOW MUCH WORSE MUST IT BE TO LIVE THE LIFE OF THAT GIRL.

IMAGINE BEING A BOY WHO HAS BEEN SO SEVERELY BEATEN BY HIS FATHER THAT HE ACTUALLY CRINGES IF SOMEONE CORRECTS HIS MISBEHAVIOR IN ANY BUT THE CALMEST MANNER AND, IF STARTLED WHILE SLEEPING, AWAKENS WITH ARMS FLAILING. HOW DAMAGING MUST THIS ABUSE HAVE BEEN IF THE BOY STILL REACTS IN THIS MANNER YEARS AFTER THE FATHER HAS ABANDONED HIM?

THESE ARE HORROR STORIES, TO BE SURE, BUT THEY ARE EVERYDAY TALES TO THOSE WHO WORK IN SHELTER CARE PROGRAMS, GROUP HOMES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND SIMILAR SERVICES FUNDED DIRECTLY OR THROUGH CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES. I KNOW THE CHILDREN TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED ABOVE AND I HAVE MET A HUNDRED MORE IN THE LAST YEAR WHOSE PLIGHTS ARE AT LEAST AS DIRE.

THE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS WHICH SERVE THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT LAVISH, EXPENSIVE THINGS; THEY ARE NOT PART OF THE FAT THAT NEEDS CUTTING OUT OF GOVERNMENT. RATHER, THEY GENERALLY ARE PROGRAMS OF MODEST PROPORTIONS WHICH ARE PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE MANNER CURRENTLY DEVISED. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY ARE HELPING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. YET WITH THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS, THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE FORCED TO SURVIVE, IF THEY CAN, RATE CUTS WHICH ARE ESTIMATED TO BE 20 TO 30 PERCENT OVER CUTS ALREADY ENACTED IN FEBRUARY OF 1982.

MR. JOHN SHONTZ

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IN FY '82, THE BILLINGS YOUTH HOME SERVED 207 BOYS AND GIRLS WHO OBVIOUSLY NEEDED HELP AND SHELTER, CHILDREN LIKE THOSE DESCRIBED. IF THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS ARE ADOPTED, HOW MANY OF THE NEXT 207 CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP WILL BE TURNED AWAY DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS?

ALREADY THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING THESE NEEDY CHILDREN ARE SEEING THE IMPACT OF INADEQUATE FUNDING. TODAY I SPOKE WITH A 17 YEAR OLD GIRL WHO IS IN THERAPY TO WORK THROUGH A MULTITUDE OF EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS GENERATED BY THE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HER UPBRINGING. THIS GIRL IS REALLY GLAD TO BE ABLE TO MEET WEEKLY WITH HER THERAPIST AND FEELS LIKE SHE IS JUST BEGINNING TO FINALLY FIND THE HELP SHE HAS SO DESPERATELY NEEDED. THE TRAGEDY OF THIS STORY IS THAT SHE HAS BEEN TOLD THAT SERVICES WILL SOON BE UNAVAILABLE TO HER BECAUSE THERE IS NOBODY IN HER FAMILY WHO CAN PAY FOR HER THERAPY AND BECAUSE SHE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID. THIS IS SYMPTOMATIC OF BUDGETS AND SERVICES THAT ARE ALREADY SERIOUSLY OVERSTRETCHED. I REFUSE TO PREDICT HOW IT WILL BE IF THE BUDGET IS CUT ANY FURTHER.

THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FOR SRS IS ONLY BARELY ADEQUATE AS IT STANDS. PLEASE DO NOT CONSIDER CUTTING IT.

SINCERELY,



CYNTHIA R. BUEHL
DIRECTOR

MARK TAYLOR
637 LEWIS AVENUE
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101

FEBRUARY 17, 1983

JOHN SHONTZ, CHAIRMAN
JOINT HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

DEAR MR. SHONTZ:

I HAVE BEEN A COUNSELOR AT THE BILLINGS YOUTH HOME FOR TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS AND AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR S.R.S.

THE BILLINGS YOUTH HOME PROVIDES A SIMPLE AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE: WE SHELTER AND SUPERVISE YOUTH WHO, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, HAVE NO OTHER SOURCE FOR THAT BASIC NURTURANCE WHICH YOUTH NEED. ALTHOUGH I FIRMLY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET WILL PROVIDE ENOUGH MONEY TO SERVE THE NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO NEED THIS CARE, THE BUDGET PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST IS WORSE.

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE WORKED AT THE YOUTH HOME, I HAVE OBSERVED A SERIOUS DECLINE IN THE STATE'S LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE YOUTH WITH WHOM I DEAL. OUR BUDGET HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY CUT ALREADY BY A RATE ROLLBACK IN 1982 AND I AM ALSO SEEING THAT YOUTH ARE NOT BROUGHT IN FOR SERVICES UNTIL THEIR PROBLEMS ARE MUCH MORE SERIOUS. THAT IS TO SAY, PROBLEMS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BRING YOUTH TO US FOR SERVICE ARE NEGLECTED BY OUR REFERRING AGENCIES FOR A MUCH LONGER PERIOD OF TIME AND THE LEVEL OF SERVICE WHICH EVENTUALLY HAS TO BE PROVIDED IS MUCH MORE INTENSE. I AM ALREADY UNDERPAID FOR THE WORK I DO, I RECEIVE ABOUT \$1400 LESS PER YEAR THAN A RAW RECRUIT IN THE ARMY FRESH OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. OUR PROGRAM IS NOT LAVISH, WE CANNOT EVEN AFFORD TO BUY SHAMPOO FOR OUR YOUTH, RELYING ON COMMUNITY DONATIONS INSTEAD. IF OUR BUDGET IS CUT FURTHER I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT OUR PROGRAM WILL SURVIVE.

MY POINT IS THIS: THE POPULATION WITH WHICH I WORK IS CURRENTLY UNDERSERVED. THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET WILL ONLY PROVIDE SERVICE TO THEM AT THE CURRENT LEVEL AND ANY CUTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE AT THE EXPENSE OF GREAT HUMAN SUFFERING. PLEASE, AT LEAST, SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR S.R.S.

SINCERELY,

Mark Taylor

MARK TAYLOR, M.A.
COUNSELOR

2-17-83

Dear Mr. Shantz,

I am a counselor at the Billings Youth Home. During the last three years that I have been employed here, I've seen countless cases of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. These people that this has happened to are our youth, and innocent children of Montana. Children that have these horrifying experiences need help and people to care, and provide for them. This is where my job starts.

Here is an example of the horror that is inflicted upon this scared, and abused large group of children. We had a young boy at the home who was sexually abused by his father for the past five years of his life, as well his older sister had to have a abortion due to a pregnancy caused by their father. These children need help and protection.

This is why I am asking you to support and vote for the Social Rehabilitation Services budget as proposed by the Governor's office.

Sincerely Yours,

Chin H. Flemons

Feb. 17, 1983

DEAR MR. SHONTZ,

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE THAT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SOCIAL + REHABILITATIVE SERVICES BUDGET.

THE MEDIA HAS PRESENTED THIS AS AN \$18 MILLION CUT IN SERVICES. THIS WILL AFFECT STAFF OF THE SRS AND WILL AFFECT CHILDREN. BOTH ARE LINKED CRUCIALLY. I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THIS PERSPECTIVE.

① I think those persons who are on the S.R.S staff are a special breed of persons. Their level of expertise in caring for crisis situations in families and helping ease those crises is truly amazing. If the SRS budget is cut some of this staff, already under a heavy load, will be cut. This would really diminish the quality of crisis intervention, because of the load. That would be so great that individuals, kids, would get lost in the shuffle. Those that care so deeply for families + children would find themselves caught between their ideals + the amount of work. The care would suffer, + ultimately the budget because of the quality of intervention may just keep situations from being resolved. We'd have more kids under foster-care + for longer periods of time because the budget didn't allow for time + care to get together to resolve these types of family crises.

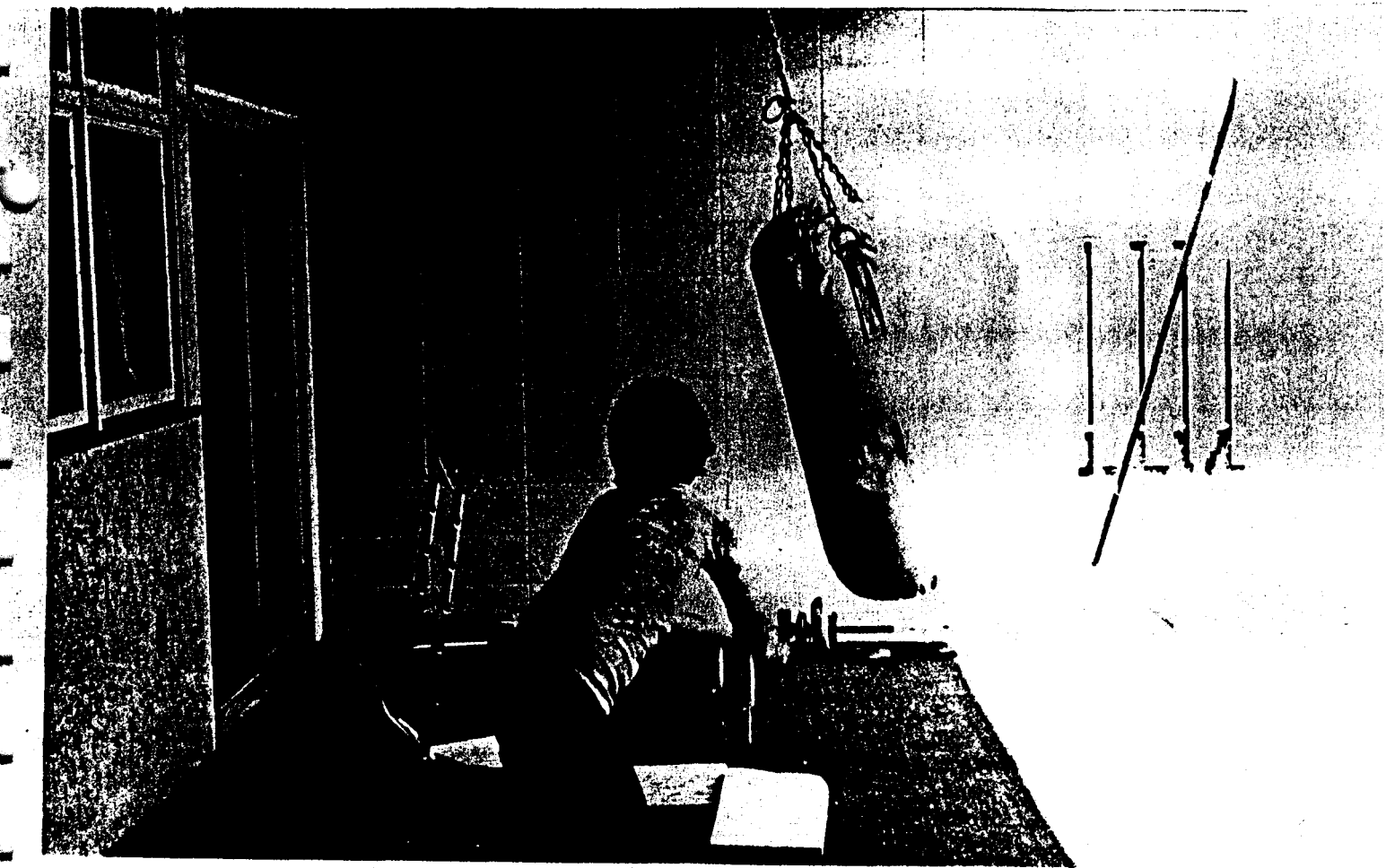
② I really want to say that kids would suffer most. As a youth counselor, I've seen kids taken from a moderately secure homes + put into foster care. + I notice that reasons for doing so are well documented. But the longer a kid remains in the system the

less help we can be to them. They just get "hard," self-sufficient in a negative way. They end up on the negative side of society + some of them will be problems until they die. SRS offers a way to get beyond that whole syndrome now. If that Budget, which has been frozen for over a year, gets cut more. Then the kid gets it in the throat because the level of caring is really cut, and we get it too, because 5 to 10 years from now when that kid is grown he's still a problem.

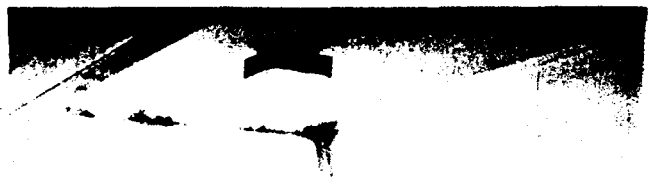
I could probably cite examples where kids taken out of crisis situations, + families helped in those situations, ^{that} are now back together again, healthier, much happier + over all society will be better off; because SRS workers were able to provide a level of care that helped kids!! If we don't MAINTAIN or increase this kind of care, tomorrow's society will be less secure than it is now. There are other examples that are horror stories because a kid was caught in the system for a long time + no one was or is able to help. In any case, can we just shunt these kids onto the streets, or what are we really all about?

Budget cuts will really mess up what we have now without offering any real solutions. Go for the real solution. Please, ~~at~~ at least maintain the budget so we can get on with the care we have now, or please, increase it so we can provide better care for kids caught in crisis.

Sincerely,
D. K. Hen



PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT THE
BILLINGS YOUTH HOME,
AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR TROUBLED YOUTH



Dear Mr. Slante,

2-19-83

I think that it was important that we have places to live like the place they call the Youth home.

My name is Alvin and I'm staying here at the Youth home.

This is a very important place to have a room, because if they didn't have any place to be, there would probably be a lot of kids on the street. Because they wouldn't have any place to live.

Right now this place is doing a lot of good for me. It give us a chance to think about how we can change our way of life and get myself back home, and what I'll be doing when I get out of High-school and what my future plan will be.

Sincerely

Alvin
H

Dear Mr. Monty,

I think that it's very important that we have money for the foster homes & runaway homes because there are many kids who need places like this to be able to turn to when things get bad in their homes and need a place to go.

And the reason I think we need this place is because it gives the kids & me times to think about what they are going to do when they get home.

Sincerely

Annon.

from Bob Neal at The
Belling youth home
467 Custer
Belling MT 59102

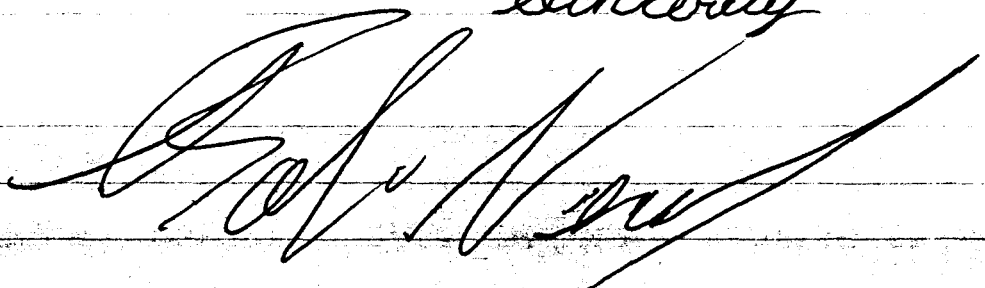
7/12/75

Dear Shontz

I don't think you should cut the budget.
Because kids like us would have to go
to jail or pine hills. Think of all the
other kids someday. This place is
very important because this place is
like a home away from home. You meet
all kinds of neat people.

If you people cut of the supply
of ^{medicare} ~~money~~ to places like this through
out montana kids will go with out
glasses & medicine they would have to
go with out services

Sincerely



Feb. 17, 1983

Mr. Shantz,

My name is Donna. I am fifteen years old. Due to family problems and nowhere else to go, I am forced to stay at the Billings Youth Home. If it weren't for this place I would probably be in jail. I think the Billings Youth Home is a very important place. It helps to keep a lot of kids off the streets and out of trouble.

To help keep kids off the streets the Youth Home needs money. Just like everything else in this world.

There are several reasons as to why they need money. So I'll get to the point. We need a different kind of shampoo. The shampoo we have to use bleaches your hair, leaves it feeling greasy, and makes your hair smell like some kind of disinfectant.

The allowance we get is really inadequate. When we need to buy new clothes because we have nothing else to wear, or new shoes for P.E., we don't have the money to do it. Not to mention make up, movies, or cigarettes. These may sound like frivolous items, but we do need a few things to live a normal life.

We might seem like just dumb, little kids, but these things are important

It is I really hope you can find a
way to use the amount of money that
we have and use it for other things
and get it out of the way.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Donna

Feb. 15, 1983

To members of the committee:

As a public health nurse I am quite concerned about potential cuts in the SES budget for foster care as recommended by the state legislative committee. I work in a school in a low income area of Bridgeport and am often involved with the welfare department. I work closely with many children from families that do not provide a nurturing climate in which children can develop into caring, competent adults. For many of these children home is a violent place, where parents may be drunk; where a different man may come home every night; where a six year old may be responsible for getting his/her own dinner and clean clothes and caring for younger siblings; where the parent lets that child know there's nothing they can do right; where there are no visits to the dentist or doctor even with an abscessed tooth or a draining ear.

These are not unusual, extreme examples - these things happen to many children every day. In one school alone I have filed over 20 child abuse/neglect reports this year. Foster care may be the only hope these children have for growing up in a caring, stable home. For the parents of these kids foster care may be their only chance to get a respite, put their lives in perspective, and make positive changes,

Even at current funding levels there are children who are forced to stay in chaotic, unstable, damaging home environments because there is not enough funding for foster care or residential treatment. These are monies that have a very tangible direct effect on these children.

The placement process legally requires hard evidence of abuse or neglect - these are not healthy families whose privacy is being intruded upon by over-zealous social workers. These are children growing up in sick families, and foster care may be the only way to begin to cure the situation.

These families are in every community, and our current resources barely touch the problem - please don't make it worse. Please try to maintain the current funding of the foster care program.

Sincerely,

Nora Siegel
1316 Crawford Dr.
Billings, MT
59102
248-3035

February 16, 1983

MEMO TO: Members of the Joint Sub-Committee on Human Services
FROM: Montana Residential Child Care Association
RE: Proposed SRS Budget for Foster Care Services

We as private residential providers wish to go on record as supporting the Executive Budget covering foster care services.

SRS has requested a 6% inflationary provider increase for fiscal year 1984 and 1985 and an additional 3.75% increase in child care days provided.

As such, this budget leaves no room for expansion but current levels could at least be maintained.

Worse, should the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's recommendation be adopted, we would see no rate increases and 60,000 fewer days of care being provided to children.

As providers of direct services to children and youth, we are deeply aware of their needs. We are seeing increasingly troubled youth who are requiring care and treatment outside the family. Many of these youth are requiring even more sophisticated treatment. If we are to continue to provide quality care to these children and youth, we require the funds as recommended by SRS. Anything short of this would curtail our services drastically.

We truly appreciate the difficult decisions you have to make on these budget issues. We are so aware of the very lean financial times we are facing. However, our services to children and youth are truly in the realm of prevention and as such are considerably cost effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

dm

THE BILLINGS CLINIC

NINTH AVE. NORTH AT BROADWAY
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2556
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103-9963
(406) 252-4141

THE BILLINGS CLINIC — HEIGHTS OFFICE

WICKS LANE AT SABCOCK BOULEVARD
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2556
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103-9963
(406) 252-4141

exhibit 5
2/18/83

February 16, 1983

Joint Human Services Committee
c/o Representative Shontz

Dear Sir:

This letter is written to your committee in lieu of being able to get to Helena to testify before your committee regarding budgetary changes for foster care and SRS social worker positions.

As a very brief introduction, I have practiced pediatrics in Billings for ten years and have been a member of the Yellowstone County Child Abuse Team for that same length of time. I am also chairman and a member of the Yellowstone County Sexual Abuse Team which was formed in Billings approximately 1½ years ago. All of this work is done on a voluntary basis. These positions require close contact and a good working relationship with the SRS personnel in Billings. All of my work with the SRS personnel is in the area of child abuse and neglect and, therefore, often involves recommendations for foster care.

There are currently 170 children in Yellowstone County in foster care, and this number varies from day to day and week to week. Foster care is often the only solution to defuse an explosive situation within a family and to obviously protect the children. During the last two weeks alone, I have personally seen one ten month old baby with a skull fracture and broken arm, three older children who were severely beaten and two children who have been sexually assaulted. There were approximately 750 referrals for possible child abuse and neglect to Yellowstone County during 1982, all of which require some evaluation by SRS personnel. In the past year, approximately 75% of those have proved to have some element of abuse or neglect and require ongoing evaluation. During this same period of time, there were at least 90 specific cases of sexual abuse which is almost triple the number of referrals three years ago.

As I have mentioned, Yellowstone County has formed a sexual abuse team because of the increasing number of sexual abuse cases which

ALLERGY
L. Bruce Anderson, Jr., M.D.
DERMATOLOGY
Thomas P. Gornick, M.D.
William H. Smith, M.D.
IMMEDIATE CARE
Dexter W. Bahrman, M.D.
Dennis V. Hoyer, M.D.
INTERNAL MEDICINE
Allen Lee Gauding, M.D., P.C.
George R. Browne, M.D.
Richard V. Hoyer, M.D.
Lutimel M. Yusef, M.D.
Office - Barry M. Hootstet, M.D.
CARDIOLOGY
Walter C. Degen, M.D.
John R. Burg, M.D.
Harman D. Borsness, M.D.
ENDOCRINOLOGY
Martin E. Kodish, M.D.
GASTROENTEROLOGY
John C. Fink, M.D.
HEMATOLOGY
Warren D. Bowman, Jr., M.D.
Wilderness and Mountain Medicine
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Ronald H. Smith, M.D.
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
Donald I. Twito, M.D.
NEPHROLOGY
Donald L. Hicks, M.D.
James D. Knostman, M.D.
PULMONARY DISEASES
Terrance J. Fagan, M.D.
RHEUMATOLOGY
Philip E. Griffin, Jr., M.D.
NEUROSCIENCES
NEUROLOGY, ELECTROMYOGRAPHY &
ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY
Dale M. Peterson, M.D.
Patrick J. Cahill, M.D.
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
Robert C. Wood, M.D.
Lashman W. Sanyal, M.D.
PSYCHIATRY
William H. Hagus, M.D.
PSYCHOLOGY
Robert E. Tompkins, Ed. D.
OBSTETRICS AND GYNCOLOGY
William H. Deschner, M.D., P.C.
Thomas C. Olson, M.D., P.C.
Mark E. Randek, M.D., P.C.
James R. Harris, M.D.
GYNCOLOGY AND INFERTILITY
Edward F. Randek, M.D., P.C.
OPHTHALMOLOGY
James S. Good, M.D., P.C.
ORTHOPEDICS
Sterling R. Hayward, M.D.
Willard J. Hull, M.D.
James E. Scott, M.D., P.C.
James F. Schwartz, M.D.
OTOLARYNGOLOGY
Stephen A. Kremer, M.D.
PEDIATRICS
Allen P. Hartman, M.D.
Patrick Sauer, M.D.
Roy F. Davis, M.D.
Paul H. Kalkar, M.D.
Heights Office - Marian A. Jones, M.D.
**GENERAL, THORACIC, CARDIAC
AND VASCULAR SURGERY**
John W. Heizer, M.D., P.C.
O. Adrian Johnson, M.D., P.C.
Hewes D. Agnew, M.D., P.C.
Paul F. Grmolez, M.D., P.C.
Robert N. Hurd, M.D.
UROLOGY
Robert S. Hagstrom, M.D.
C. Dale Vermillion, M.D.
John J. Martin, M.D.
RADIOLOGY
Jerry D. Wolf, M.D.
V. Paul Johnson, M.D.
Bruce C. Pinkerton, M.D.
CONSULTANTS
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Paul V. Hoyer, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR
William R. Nicholson

Joint Human Services Committee

Page 2

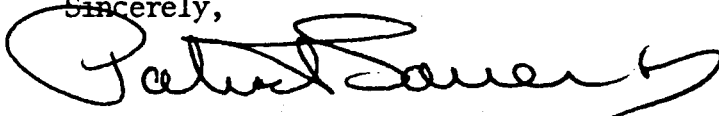
February 16, 1983

require very specific, difficult and ongoing evaluation and a very coordinated team approach. Currently, there are three SRS workers who do the sexual abuse cases almost exclusively because of the devastating effects on the children, family and society of ongoing sexual abuse. To lose any of these personnel or their positions would have a major effect on handling this problem alone in any reasonable fashion.

As a member of the child abuse team, I or other members of the team have often elected to choose foster care as a temporary solution to various problems of child abuse and neglect. This is often the choice in cases of failure to thrive where children appear not to be fed or receive proper nutrition at home. It is often the choice of therapy when there have been crises within a family and it's best to have the children temporarily removed until SRS can evaluate and help to aid the situation. Foster care is often the solution in mild to moderate forms of child abuse and neglect while parents or guardians are beginning to receive proper training, i.e. parenting, psychological evaluations, etc. If the foster care program does have significant budget cuts, many of these borderline or "gray area" cases will be managed at home with the distinct possibility of then becoming major cases of child abuse and neglect. It is hard to put into words just how important it is to at a minimum continue the services that are provided which even now often suffer from budgetary restraints. I can only try to express my deep concern and my conviction that to cut either the foster care or to reduce the number of social worker positions will only lead to at a minimum inadequate evaluation of possible child abuse and neglect and as a maximum the possible irreparable major physical, nutritional or emotional damage to a child because services were unavailable.

I wish that I could have attended your committee meeting to try to convince you and to stress as strongly as I could that you evaluate any budgetary changes with your heart and with a deep concern for the unprotected children of Montana as well as with the economic pressures of our current financial situation. I appreciate your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Sauer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

PATRICK SAUER, M.D.

Thirteenth Judicial District Court Services

PROBATION DEPARTMENT — DOMESTIC RELATIONS

P. O. Box 35031

59107

287
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101

February 17, 1983

Dear Sirs:


Re: Foster care budgets

Should the SRS foster care budget be eliminated or curtailed to appoint that they no longer could pay for substitute care placements made by Youth Court in Yellowstone County, this would virtually eliminate the care and treatment for 23 children who are in substitute care currently.

The average payment for the type of care required by Youth Court children is approximately \$1,200.00 a month per child or currently this month \$27,600.00. On a yearly basis, if we maintain the current number of children, this would be \$331,200.00. Knowing Yellowstone County's tax basis and budget problems, the County Commissioners could not even consider the allocation of this much money for care. Therefore, there would be no funds for substitute care.

With no funds for substitute care, that many more children would be placed in state institutions, probably inappropriately, doing greater damage to the children, the correctional system, and still cost the state the same amount of money that they are paying for substitute care through the SRS budget and would not be providing the needed care to the state's needy children.

Sincerely,


TED V. LECHNER
Director

TVL/pkh

My name is Myrtle Smith. I'm from Billings and President of Big Sky Foster Parent Association, an organization whose members offer foster care and work closely with the County Welfare Office.

My husband and I have been foster parents for five years. During that time, eighteen foster children have lived in our home. We receive \$7.96 a day, or about \$242.00 for a 30-day month.

Even though we do not take handicapped children, our children have had special medical needs that under the Fiscal Analyst's budget recommendations may no longer be available to them.

We have had children with severely crossed eyes, failure to thrive infants, children with speech and language problems. Most of our children have had emotional problems. Under the budget recommendations these kinds of needs would be considered "optional".

Gary Huffmaster, Director of Children's Services in Yellowstone County, estimates that 90% of the children in foster care have to have some kind of medical treatment, and 70% need emotional help. To make such treatment "optional" will force these children to continue struggling with these extra burdens. Many foster care parents will be forced to dig into their own pockets to provide these needed services, but others simply can't.

Of the \$242.00 we receive, \$191.00 automatically goes for formula, diapers, baby food and clothing. Another \$30.00 goes for a babysitter which I need to hire at \$2.00 an hour so that I can take care of my responsibilities with the Association, figuring by the hour I make 11¢ an hour as a foster parent. I'm not complaining -- it is something I love to do -- but I don't want to be penalized for doing it. These children have special needs, they need special homes. Most of them when they come to us feel lost, different and abused. As foster parents we provide day to day care, including love, training and discipline, as well as food, clothing and a stable home to the child, but speech therapy, glasses, prescription medicines, physical therapy and psychological services are needed. Most of us would not be able to provide these if they are dropped from the "services provided" list, and yet with most of our children these are basic necessities. These services are basic to sound medical and psychological care. They enhance self esteem and rebuild a healthy child. Please do not drop these necessary services. Most foster homes are needed. Please do not penalize those who would offer a child his second chance. It seems to me that 2.1 million is a lot to cut from 4% of the S.R.S. budget. By cutting back now, we may reap the result in years to come. Instability and low self esteem in a child grow into the same in an adult. Give us a chance to give these children every break they deserve to become stable, contributing adults.

Thank you.

DISTRICT COURT
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF MONTANA
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

H. WILLIAM CODER
JUDGE, DEPARTMENT A
H. (406) 761-8700
EX. 440

JANICE L. WOLTER
COURT REPORTER
PH. (406) 761-8700
EX. 441

CASCADE COUNTY—GREAT FALLS
CHOUTEAU COUNTY—FORT BENTON

Chairman Shontz
Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee

February 17, 1983

Dear Chairman Shontz and Members:

I feel that the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services requires the total requested appropriations of \$4,941,689.00 for both Foster Care and Institutional Placements; this request includes a 6% inflationary provider increase for Fiscal year 1984; the total requested appropriations of \$5,434,281.00 for fiscal year 1985, also reflects the 6% inflationary increase. These requested figures, reflect services for the entire State of Montana.

By comparison, in Fiscal year 1981-1982 the S.R.S. increase was 11.2%; in 1982-1983 the same was granted, 11.2%. The Department of S.R.S., in Fiscal year 1984-1985 is only requesting a modest 6%, the above figures do not include the expansion and development of a new program.


The new service/expansion for the Emotionally Disturbed Children in communities is based on surveys over the past two years. The expansion is for a modest \$250,000.00 per year or \$500,000.00, thus enabling the development of placement, prevention, specialized foster care and group care programs.

This new program will aid the Courts in placement. The courts must deal with these children on a daily basis, and the necessary resources and placement of these children, are very limited and, at best, inappropriate.

This conservative increase for the Department of S.R.S. to aid the private sectors and to provide placement in the youth serving agencies outside of the Department of S.R.S., is needed to keep pace with the growing demands upon the courts and the agencies.

I support the program, and I earnestly solicit your positive consideration and approval of the appropriation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. William Coder", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

H. William Coder,
District Judge

My name is Dr. Bailey Molineux. I'm representing the Montana Psychological Association.

I'm here to speak on behalf of some children who, quite frankly, can be real pains in the butt. To illustrate what I mean, I'd like to talk briefly about a case of mine. Its one of my therapeutic failures.

The girl is an attractive, bright pre-teen. The presenting complaints are that she disobeys, lies and steals.

My diagnosis is that the girl suffers from depression and a lousy self-concept. If you look at her history, its easy to see why.

Her parents divorced several years ago. She first lived with her mother, then with her father, then back to her mother and now with her father.

In effect, she's been rejected twice by her mother. Her father is not able to give her much love because of his own love-limited childhood and her step-mother, who has really tried to help, is about to give up on her.

I've recommended intensive treatment for this girl because I'm sure she can be reached. I'd like to see her in a therapeutic foster home in which she can be given consistent nurturance and discipline.

This girl is a good example of the type of children who need intensive treatment. Most of them can be successfully treated but not on a once-a-week outpatient basis. They can be turned from lives of mental illness, crime or dependence on welfare into useful, productive, taxpaying citizens.

My plea to this committee is that you consider money spent on these children not as an expenditure for custodial care in which there is little hope for improvement, but as an investment in their futures in which taxpayers can expect a return on their money. My fear is that if we don't treat them now when we have a good chance to do so effectively, we'll be burdened with the expense of their problems for much of their lives.

Thank you.

- To whom it may concern -

I wish to address those of you who will be deciding the very crucial question as to what reductions should be made.

- It is inconceivable to us as foster parents that we should be facing possible cuts in medicare, physical therapy, speech therapy and let's not forget psychological therapy. All these areas are of the utmost importance to our very special children. They are totally dependent on our help to become mentally and physically as well as emotionally healthy people. They must have all opportunities available to them to be able to function in today's society.

- As it is foster care is the least costly of all other care and can not afford any cuts.

- Please consider the serious harm you will be doing our children not to mention the shambles you will be making of the foster care program.

- We need your sincere support now more than ever not the callous disregard to our children's well-being.

- Thank you for the time you have taken to read this letter -

Sincerely -
Mrs Sara Marshall

Florence Crittenton Home and Services

Maternity Home Mother/Baby Program Counseling & Classes Out-Patient Services

RUSSELL STEEN, ADMINISTRATOR
KAREN E. NORTHEY, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

846 FIFTH AVENUE
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
TELEPHONE (406) 442-6950



A United Way Member Agency

February 17, 1983

exhibit 11
2/18/83

Representative John Shontz
Joint Appropriations
Sub Committee on Human Services
House of Representatives

Dear Representative Shontz:

The Florence Crittenton Home is concerned about the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services' budget, and especially the Foster Care Program. The Executive Budget request is for a 6% increase in Foster Care plus a 3.7 day use increase over that of the last year biennium. We support this minimal increase and feel it is a very conservative request.

This past year the Crittenton Home has provided services to a greater number of families in Montana than previous years. During time of economic trouble, the children often receive the brunt of their parents' frustrations so need residential care. At the Crittenton Home, the young clients not only are facing the trauma of an unwed pregnancy but also:

- 10% are battered by boyfriends.
- 25% have been sexually abused with a high percent of incest.
- 40% come from child abuse situations.
- 70% have school problems.
- 85% have family problems.

Often the best thing for these children and their families is to provide temporary residential care and counseling.

At the Crittenton Home, we do admit girls who cannot pay the fee and cannot receive welfare assistance. However Foster Care assistance is a critical portion of our budget and needs to be available for all girls eligible to receive it.

With the need for residential care increasing and our limit already being extended to care for those who cannot receive financial assistance we are very concerned that the SRS budget as requested by the Department of SRS be approved. We appreciate any assistance you can give to ensure the Foster Care budget be adequately funded to take care of the children in Montana who increasingly need residential care.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Northey".

Karen Northey
Program Director

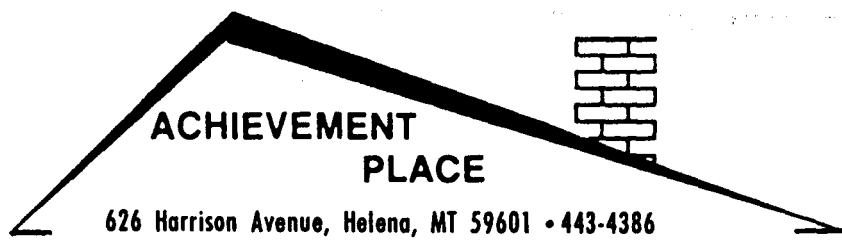
MILLER MATHEWS
PRESIDENT

VIRGINIA THOMPSON
1st VICE PRESIDENT

FRED FLANDERS
2nd VICE PRESIDENT

CHAD SMITH
TREASURER

BETTY BABCOCK
SECRETARY



Teaching Parents

Bill & Penny Hoiland

February 15, 1983

The Helena Achievement Place is a private non-profit group home licensed for 8 boys and girls. The Home provides a long term residential family style treatment program for teenagers who have developed emotional or behavioral problems.

From July 1, 1982 through January 31, 1983, the Home treated 12 youth with diagnoses as follows:

- 3 sexually abused/emotionally disturbed
- 4 alcohol and drug dependency/emotionally disturbed
- 5 emotionally disturbed/unstable environment

During the last seven months, we have had 5 terminations. At present we are treating seven youth. Two youth are in the Homeward Bound program, two will be released into Independent Living and three will be integrated into foster homes. Seventy-five percent of our youth are from the middle economic class income bracket.

It is vitally important funds are not cut for continued services to youth placed in foster care. This also includes supportive services such as alcohol and drug counseling, sexually abused and physically abused counseling and family counseling programs.

We strongly urge your assistance in supporting the proposed SRS budget.

Jan Shaw,
Director

HAROLD GUTHRIE, VICE-CHAIRMAN, LISCA

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS HAROLD GUTHRIE. I AM A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LISCA---LOW INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS ADVOCATES---AND I AM A RESIDENT OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA. I AM HERE TODAY TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN ABOUT THE FUNDING OF SRS PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT SENIOR CITIZENS.

ACCORDING TO THE 1980 CENSUS, MONTANA HAS MORE THAN 120,000 SENIOR CITIZENS, OR APPROXIMATELY 17% OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE STATE. THIS NUMBER REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE, BOTH RELATIVELY AND ABSOLUTELY, FROM THE SENIOR CITIZEN POPULATION IN THE 1970 STATE CENSUS, AND BOTH NATIONAL AND STATE PROJECTIONS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT OUR POPULATION IS INCREASING IN AVERAGE AGE, SO THAT WE CAN EXPECT MORE THAN 25% OF OUR STATE'S POPULATION TO BE 60 YEARS OR OLDER AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. OUR SENIOR CITIZENS ARE A SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY, FOR DESPITE WIDELY VARYING BACKGROUNDS, WE SENIORS SHARE MORE THAN JUST AGE. WE HAVE MORE INTENSE MEDICAL NEEDS OVERALL; A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF ILLNESS FROM EXPOSURE TO STRESSES IN OUR ENVIRONMENT---FOR EXAMPLE, A GREATER CHANCE OF HYPOTHERMIA WHEN EXPOSED TO TEMPERATURES THAT YOUNGER PEOPLE WITH "NORMAL" PHYSIOLOGIES CAN ADJUST TO; AND THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH OUR SPOUSES AND FRIENDS DIE, ISOLATING MANY OF US FROM LONG-ESTABLISHED PERSONAL TIES.

WHILE THERE ARE MANY OF US, AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC REALITIES OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE MEAN THERE WILL BE EVEN MORE OF US, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, WHAT IS IT THAT GOVERNMENT AND

SOCIETY IS DOING FOR US AFTER WE HAVE SUPPORTED AND MADE OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY FOR 60 OR 70 OR 80 OR MORE YEARS?

ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL, CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION IS DEBATING WHETHER DOLLARS THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM FOR OUR RETIREMENT WILL BE REDUCED OR WITHHELD FROM US, AND OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED TO MEET OUR SPECIAL NEEDS ARE BEING REDUCED OR THREATENED WITH REDUCTIONS. I AM NOT HERE TODAY TO TALK ABOUT FEDERAL PROGRAMS BECAUSE WE CANNOT CHANGE THOSE PROGRAMS HERE, BUT I MUST MENTION THESE REDUCTIONS OR THREATS OF REDUCTION BECAUSE THESE REALITIES MAKE ANY REDUCTIONS OR CHANGES IN THE FUNDING OF OUR STATE AGING PROGRAMS THAT MUCH MORE DRAMATIC AND SIGNIFICANT.

ON THE STATE LEVEL WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED AT LEAST TWO MAJOR BUDGET SCENARIOS, AN EXECUTIVE BUDGET FROM THE GOVERNOR THAT BY ITSELF IS INSUFFICIENT, AND A BUDGET FROM THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST THAT IN COMPARISON MAKES THE INSUFFICIENCIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET LOOK GENEROUS!

I INCLUDE FOR YOUR REFERENCE A LISTING/COMPARISON OF THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND THAT OF THE LFA REGARDING THOSE AGING PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE STATE DOLLARS.

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GOV FY84</u>	<u>LFA 84</u>	<u>GOV FY85</u>	<u>LFA 85</u>
STATE AGENCY GRANTS	202,560 (50,163)	152,400	217,752 (65,352)	152,400
INFO & REFERRAL	130,075 (1,815)	128,260	139,831 (3,375)	135,956
IN-HOME SERVICES	144,677 (19,671)	125,000	155,527 (30,527)	125,000
LFA ANNUAL TOTAL LESS	71,652		99,754	

REGARDING STATE AGENCY GRANTS, THEREFORE, THESE BUDGET SCENARIOS REFLECT A 25% LESS RECOMMENDATION ON THE PART OF THE LFA (\$115,512 LESS), AND MORE THAN \$50,000 LESS FOR IN-HOME SERVICES, FOR A TOTAL LESS OF \$171,406 IN THE LFA'S BUDGET FOR AGING PROGRAMS.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEN, DESPITE MORE SENIOR CITIZENS IN OUR STATE, DESPITE REDUCED FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR SENIOR PROGRAMS, DESPITE CONSTANT NEEDS FOR THESE PEOPLE, DESPITE UNEMPLOYMENT THAT MEANS THESE PEOPLE CANNOT RELY AS MUCH ON YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES FOR GRACEFUL ASSISTANCE, DESPITE STEADY INCREASES IN THE COST OF FOOD AND ENERGY AND OTHER ESSENTIALS SUCH AS MEDICINE AND HEALTH CARE---DESPITE ALL THESE FACTORS, YOU AS OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE BEING PRESENTED WITH OPTIONS THAT ALLOW YOU TO SELECT PRIMARILY BETWEEN EITHER INADEQUATE OR HARMFUL FUNDING LEVELS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS. AND OTHER PROGRAMS, FOR EXAMPLE THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THAT SENIOR CITIZENS RELY HEAVILY UPON, ARE BEING PRESENTED AS FURTHER AVENUES OF REDUCTION AND BUDGET MAGIC: LISCA STRONGLY OPPOSED TAKING \$1.7 MILLION OUT OF THE LIEAP BLOCK GRANT DURING THE LAST SPECIAL SESSION AND WE ARE EQUALLY OPPOSED TO THIS SORT OF ACTION BY THIS LEGISLATURE.

THESE BUDGET OPTIONS YOU ARE CONSIDERING ARE IN AND OF THEMSELVES DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH, AND WILL BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF THIS STATE TO ADJUST TO. I URGE YOU TO GIVE SENIOR CITIZENS THE THOUGHTFUL CONCERN AND CARE THAT WE HOPE WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO YOU AND OUR STATE OVER THE LAST SIXTY OR SO DECADES. I ALSO URGE YOU TO MOVE BEYOND SOME OF

THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT BOTH THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND THE LFA'S BUDGET ARE BASED UPON. WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE IT AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE WHAT OUR PRIORITIES ARE, TIME AND TIME AGAIN. LISCA, MSCA, THE LEGACY LEGISLATURE, AARP/NRTA, EVERY SINGLE SENIOR CITIZEN ORGANIZATION AND GROUP---FIRST, GIVE US THE 2 MILLION DOLLAR BILL(HB 187) FOR IN-HOME SERVICES THAT WILL KEEP US IN OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AND OUT OF THE NURSING HOMES AND THEREBY SAVE ALL THE TAXPAYERS MANY MORE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT WILL OTHERWISE BE SPENT ON EXPENSIVE NURSING HOME CARE; SECOND, GIVE US OUR OFFICE ON AGING BACK(HB 873) SO WE CAN HAVE A REAL FOCUS FOR AGING PROGRAMS AND A VOICE IN PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT US; AND FINALLY, VOTE FOR BILLS LIKE HB 394,HB 659,HB 663, AND HB 708 THAT KEEP US OUT OF THE WELFARE OFFICIES SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR SENSE OF DIGNITY.

RE: Annual Intake Unit Activity Report
Missoula County Social Services
January--December, 1981

Submitted by:
Charles Briggs,
Governor's Office

FROM: Warren Wright, Social Worker Supervisor II

with permission of:
Mr. Warren Wright
exhibit 14
2/18/83

	# of Cases
Child Sexual Abuse	38
Child Abuse	198
Child Neglect	315
Request for payment of Foster Care	10
Request for placement of Children	60
Displaced teenagers--runaways	25
Adult Protective Services	104
Medicaid Transportation	17
Homemaker requests	55
Bus Tickets	7
Divorce Custody Home Evaluations	20
Day Care	373
Information & Referral	811
Relinquishment	4
Agency Requests Supervision of Children	10

Total of 2047 cases were provided services.

50 Cases were transferred to intervention for long-term delivery of services.

33 Cases were transferred to adult services.

The 1981 numbers indicate an increase of 4.2% in overall reports of Child abuse and neglect over 1980.

This includes a 12% increase in reports of child abuse.

A 1% increase in the reports of child neglect.

Also 30% increase in the reports of adults needing some sort of protective services.

RE: Annual Intake Unit Activity Report
Missoula County Social Services
January - December 1980

From: Warren Wright Social Worker Supervisor II

	#of cases
* Child Sexual abuse	35
Child abuse	175
Child neglect	312
Teenager Requests Foster Care	21
Request for payment of Foster Care	7
Request for placement of children	61
Displaced teenagers---runaways	29
Adult Protective Services	79
Medicaid transportation	8
Homemaker requests	56
Bus tickets	10
Divorce Custody Home Evaluations	24
Day Care	215
Information & Referral	713
Relinquishment	7
Sanity Hearings	7
Agency Requests Supervision of Children	19

Total of 1,778 cases were provided services.

* Sexual abuse figures do not include January, February & March of 1980.

63 cases were transferred to intervention for long term delivery of Services.

24 cases were transferred to substitute care as Foster Care placement was required.

(Note: This # does not include November & December 1980 as Substitute Care Unit was disbanded due to need for those positions in the intervention unit.)

The 1980 numbers indicate an increase of 9.5% in overall reports of Child abuse & neglect over 1979.

This includes a 14% increase in reports of child abuse.

A 6.5% increase in the reports of child neglect.

Also A 55% increase in the reports of Adults needing some sort of protective services.

COMPARATIVE AGING SERVICES FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

GOVERNOR'S AND LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUDGETS

<u>Service Category</u>	<u>Actual FY 1982</u>	<u>Budget FY 1983</u>	<u>Executive FY 1984</u>	<u>LFA FY 1984</u>	<u>Executive FY 1985</u>	<u>LFA FY 1985</u>
Social Services	\$1,273,934	\$1,222,501	\$1,192,302	\$1,192,302	\$1,192,302	\$1,192,302
Congregate Nutrition	1,532,271	1,336,500	1,419,408	1,419,408	1,419,408	1,419,408
Home Delivered Nutrition	290,674	247,500	283,883	283,883	283,883	283,883
Training	39,278	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Legal Advocacy	48,234	50,000	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Cash in Lieu of Commodities	262,790	250,000	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Total Federal Grants	\$3,447,181	\$3,136,501	\$3,400,593	\$3,400,593	\$3,400,593	\$3,400,593
State Agency Grants	\$ 161,392	\$ 188,428	\$ 202,560	\$ 152,400	\$ 217,752	\$ 152,400
Information and Referral	99,125	121,000	130,075	128,260	139,831	135,956
In-Home Services	115,417	125,000	144,677	125,000	155,527	125,000
Aging Administration	33,234	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total State Grants	\$ 409,168	\$ 434,428	\$ 477,312	\$ 405,660	\$ 513,110	\$ 413,356
Program Total	\$3,856,349	\$3,570,929	\$3,877,905	\$3,806,253	\$3,913,703	\$3,813,949

Montana Senior Citizens Assn., Inc.

WITH AFFILIATED CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

P.O. BOX 423 - HELENA, MONTANA 59624



(406) 443-5341

18 February 1983

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Helen Haegele and I am a member of the Board of The Montana Senior Citizens Association.

The Montana Senior Citizens Association wishes to convey our support for a strong and financially healthy appropriation for aging services. The services provided under the Older Americans Act have added to the independence, longevity and quality of life for Older Montanans.

The budget for Aging Services in no way reflects the actual benefits provided by state and federal funding. Montana is a rural state and we have hundreds of senior citizens across the state who are assisting through volunteering their time in assuring that aging services are provided in such ways as transportation of seniors, food preparation and delivery of meals on wheels.

The state appropriation of less than \$4 million generates not only social services, but helps establish the social fabric for communication and friendship within the state.

In the last 20 years two key legislative changes have dramatically improved the lives of older people. These are:

- (1) tying Social Security to the Consumer Price Index and
- (2) passage of the Older Americans Act.

(over)

We are asking this Appropriations Committee to continue to act as an advocate for the elderly in Montana. We are hopeful that this committee will enact the suggested Executive Budget for 1984 and 1985. Thank you for your favorable consideration and support of this Budget.

Marriage Fees**Abused-Wife****Shelters Get****New Funding**

SEP 29 '81

By BILL CURRY,
Times Staff Writer

GRÉAT FALLS, Mont.—For 35 years she was married, and for 35 years she was battered. It started with a slap, and the last beating was the worst. After being "knocked senseless to the floor, the 56-year-old woman now recalls, "I said, 'What are you going to do, kill me?' He said, 'I've got a notion to.'"

So not long after, when she could feel the tension building toward another attack, she packed a few things and drove to Mercy Home, a shelter for battered wives here. "I wouldn't have had anyplace to go," she said, "if her delayed flight to a 'new life' had left many times and went back many times because

Continued from First Page

service, and you spend more time raising money than providing a service."

Two years ago, Colorado turned down a proposal for a marriage license surcharge to fund abuse programs. Today, three of six Denver-area shelters face questionable futures because of financial difficulties. Safe House closed last December when it lost its federal support.

"It's the only stable source of funding," Lonnie Gordon, coordinator of the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, said of the marriage license money.

Fund Raising a Snowball Effect

"Until we had that base, we couldn't get started," said Susan Barrow of the year-old Gateway shelter in Billings, Mont., a city where two battered wives recently killed their husbands. "Fund raising is a snowball effect. The more you have, the more you get."

In one year, Gateway, which was only a telephone crisis line at first, has become a comfortable refuge that thus far has temporarily housed 270 women and children. About \$16,000 of Gateway's \$50,000 budget comes from marriage licenses.

Following Florida's lead in 1970, Montana in 1979 increased its mar-

Borchers added, "With the state money, we can help twice as many people and we can do the after-care and follow-up. We had hand-to-mouthed it so long, and we have stretched every penny. Everybody says the private sector's going to take care of social programs, but the same private foundations will not be able to keep funding us (indefinitely)."

"That's why this marriage license money is so important. (Without it) we wouldn't have any state money, and a private foundation will not support a facility if it's not funded locally and statewide."

Without the marriage license money, Borchers said without hesitation, Mercy Home would not have lasted. And without shelters, many women would remain in their violent surroundings.

Mercy Home housed 277 women and children last year and provided other assistance to 284 more families. It accommodates 16 persons at a secret location for their safety, providing them with food, clothing if necessary, counseling, reassurance, a roof and a respite from constant fear.

For many women, Mercy Home is the first step in a final journey from their abusive husbands. Others return home for another chance at

SHELTER: Help for Battered Wives

14 Part 1 / Tuesday, September 29, 1981

Los Angeles Times

during an interview at Mercy Home. "But as you get older, your system won't take it. His abuse got to be more severe. It started out as a slap; the last beating was the worst. Some you forget, the last one I'll never forget."

She had first sought help at a mental health center a year before, and a doctor told her, "You're either going to live with it or get out." He gave her the name and telephone number of Mercy Home and for a year she carried the information with her.

"During that year, I took a very bad abuse, last March, where I got beat up pretty bad. He kicked me and hit me, just anything. You lose all sense. I know I was on the floor. He took my rings and dumped everything out of my purse, took the car keys and cut up the credit cards. Then he handed me the empty purse and said, 'Now, go to either one of your children and see if they want you.'"

'I Just Couldn't Stay'

"He wanted me to think my children didn't love me. After that, I could never be the same. I just couldn't stay. Then he went through the remorseful period. He knows he has a problem. We're in bed and he said, 'Give me your

Senator Story

exhibit 16
2/18/83

...if it had been, maybe I wouldn't have stayed in the years.

Marriage Fees the Key

Mercy Home exists today because Montana has joined the small but growing number of states that have found a new and unusual source of money to provide aid to battered wives. Since 1978, Montana and six other states, including California, have increased their marriage license fees to raise money to combat family violence and help its victims. Other states are considering such action.

The result is that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been provided to open shelters and rescue financially endangered ones. Here in Montana, for example, there are now four shelters. Shelter workers say flatly there would be none at all in the state—where about 250 incidents of spouse abuse are reported monthly—without the marriage license money.

In California, marriage license fees, which vary from county to county, were increased by \$8 statewide in July, 1980, to provide for abuse programs. The fees provided about \$1.2 million in the first year. Some \$600,000 of that was in Los Angeles County, where there are now 13 abuse shelters, compared to nine last year.

Reliable Source of Money

The use of marriage license surcharges is seen as an especially important development because it financially provides a reliable, long-term source of money for the private, non-profit groups that operate shelters for battered wives. Nationwide, shelters have traditionally been plagued by the annual and unpredictable whims of government spending, politics and shoestring fund raising.

Nancy Solomon of the now-closed Safe House in Denver described the funding problems of many shelters when she lamented: "You get into the business of trying to raise money to provide a needed

...age license fee from \$15 to \$25 to fund educational programs, lines, counseling and private, nonprofit shelters from spouse abuse. In addition to California, Michigan, Kansas, North Dakota and Ohio have also adopted marriage license surcharges; Indiana has imposed an anti-abuse fee on divorce filings.

This year, Montana raised its marriage license fee another \$5, earmarking the additional money for shelter support. All told, the state expects to extract \$115,000 from altar-bound couples this budget year for anti-abuse efforts.

"We just couldn't have done a tenth of what we're doing without that state money," said Caryl Borchers, director of Mercy Home here and a driving force in the state's efforts to combat domestic violence. Mercy Home, the state's first shelter for abused wives, opened in May of 1977 with more faith than funds.

Even today with its state money —\$18,375 of its \$60,000 budget—Mercy Home is still dependent on foundations, churches, the United Way and donations for much of its support. So eclectic is its funding, in fact, that a \$12,495 Presbyterian grant provides stipends for three Jesuit missionaries serving as shelter workers.

...atching things together.

...and I kicked...

"I knew I had to leave, but I didn't want the marriage to end," said one 25-year-old woman who spent four weeks here at Mercy Home with her 3-year-old daughter and year-old son. A color photograph of her taken July 29 shows a large, ugly bruise on her left thigh where her husband had viciously kicked her. She is now in the process of rejoining her husband, and they are both being counseled at a mental health clinic.

Her time at the shelter, she said, "really has been an interlude to getting back together. It made him think, too. He's not bitter. He said one of us had to do something. He's glad I had the guts to do something about it. If I hadn't been at the shelter, I would have gone right back into the situation. It was the interlude that changed things. I hope. So far it has."

For other abused women, though, Mercy Home is the beginning of the end of violent marriage. One of them is the 56-year-old woman who endured 35 years of abuse at the hands of her husband. She arrived here June 17 and stayed 23 days.

"I had lived in a battered situation all my married life," she recalled

...the He was crying...

"You want to know the day...? I had a hair appointment and I told him I would be a little longer because I was going to get my hair dyed. But I was even 20 minutes late, and he was angry when I got home. That put the frosting on the cake... The tension was just building up... The next day I did leave."

'At Mercy Home, They Care'

"I had that little piece of paper I had carried for a year. I went right to Mercy Home. Then I rested until I felt so good not to have to worry about being hurt or being found. This will probably always be my home away from home. It was like I had died and gone to heaven."

"At Mercy Home, you just feel like they care. If you need somebody to wrap their arms around you, they will. We cooked, we had our duties. Each one talked, it was like home. If you wanted to go to your room and be quiet, you could. I always wanted to find a job (as a sales clerk). I applied all over town. I (had) never done it before in my life. No experience, married 35 years—and I got called within a week. That's my first job."

Feb. 11, 1983

Dear Representative,

I would like to express my opinion concerning the Mercy Home. When I came to the mercy home 4 days ago I was confused, scared and very tired. I had feelings inside of me that made me feel there was know one who cared or could help me. With help of the Great Falls police department they told me of the Mercy Home; soon after my visit with the police department I received a phone call from the staff of the home; from that beinging I knew that someone cared about what was happening to me. That night they contacted an officer to escort me to my home to get some of my belonging so I could come to the home to stay. My sister

which were very well
taken into consideration by "all the
staff of the home." The other mothers
consolated with me, making me realize
I was not alone. Now that I
awake each morning theirs a new
day and even a better tomorrow.
I needed the help of mercy home,
I have counseling and in every
way they have started a new being
for me; not only do I have food
and shelter & clothing from the
home, but their love and care.
And I pray the next women
has the chance of this new begin-
ing. We need it & so will they.

Thank you for your
choice in my new life.
Will you choose that for the next?
With all my gratefulness,
Michelle --

Feb. 17, 1982

Dear Representative John Schontz,

Having been disabled since 1979 which I find hard to handle as I have lived a super efficient life until then.

Having spent time in Warm Springs in 1980, and having been beaten at home with my children in the house, I was not able to get any help from anyone until I came to the Mercy Home in Great Falls.

There, with the help of counselors and especially Mrs. Borchers, I applied for disability to move to Great Falls. I am working on a recent dissolution, the loss of my three children, and I hope to finish my master's degree in counselling, and later to get a job so, I'll be able to come back and live the life I had before. With their help, I shall.

Thank you so much for caring!

An eighteen year teacher, Sandy

1.
my NAME IS JEAN. I have 2 children,
a boy 7, a girl 9. We're from Sioney,
MT. I'm here in GREAT FALLS AT MERCY
Home by the grace of God. I have been
married for only 8 months, but it seemed
like 8 years because I was the wife of
an abuser. WHEN I arrived at MERCY Home,
I immediately felt at home. HERE I WAS, a
mother without a job, no income, 2 children
to support, and me, trying to recuperate from
a nervous breakdown, not able to work. I
was running from my husband, afraid for
mine and my children's lives. On the
advice of my lawyer, I disappeared shortly
before the divorce papers were delivered. I
put what I could in the car and left not even
knowing where I'd end up. I went to BILLINGS
and stayed at the home for Battered women
there overnight, but I didn't feel I should
stay in BILLINGS because I knew too many
people there, and it might get back to my
husband where I was. So they set everything
up for me to come to Great Falls. Since
I have been here, I have received so very
much from this place. Yes, we have
received food, clothing, a warm BED to sleep in,
a place to live for awhile, but we have received

So very much more.

1. They enrolled my children in a new school. This was hard for them - new school, new friends to meet, starting over - But they just love it now.
2. my children even received counseling. coming from a battered home, they really needed this.
3. I received counseling, in groups and individually. They are so understanding so willing to help
4. I received food stamps
5. They made it possible for me to attend self-esteem classes, which I desperately needed.
6. They made it possible for me to take a Kuder test to find out where my interests lie. and then there was someone to talk to me about goals, present and future.

My goal is to go back to school, take courses in sales and music.

I am so excited about this for once in my life, I have a goal for advancement in a career, a reason for living.

7. I will probably have to work while attending school, and they are showing

me how to do a resume'.

I'm sure I haven't mentioned everything here; just some of the things that are helping prepare me for a decent life for us.

I just thank God for a refuge like MERCY Home. I feel so very sorry for women that are in my position but have no where to turn, nowhere to go, no one to care or help. If they only knew, there is help, there is hope. They don't have to stay in their battered lives... there is help.

Forever grateful
JEAN & children.

Dear Representative John Shontz, 2/17/83

My name is Teresa and I am a client at Mercy Home in Great Falls. I have lived here two weeks. I'm from Maine and I have only lived in Montana a month and a half. I met a man in Maine who's from Great Falls, and he talked me into coming to Montana. I was taking a big risk bringing my daughter, who's two, and myself 2300 miles away from everyone I know. As it worked out things completely changed as soon as my boyfriend set foot on home base. His whole disposition and personality changed. He started battering me and abusing my daughter. I don't know anyone in Montana and I'm afraid if it wasn't for Mercy Home giving me a place to go something terrible would of happened. Mercy Home was the only way out of my situation. I didn't have any money, any furniture, or any transportation. I was totally reliant on my boyfriend. They are really helping me to sort out where I'm headed next. They have also helped me with transportation, food and clothing. Mercy Home was a godsend for me and for other people I have talked to here. I definitely believe shelters are a plus to the community and to battered women and their families.

February 16 - 1983.

My Stayed at the Mercy Home.

There is no words that can express my gratitude that I have for the welcome feelings and security that I received at the Mercy Home in Great Falls.

I had heard about the home when I was in the hospital for the after care of a ~~ab~~ battered incident I just had received from my husband. He had thrown a lamp and hit my head and after three years of marriage I was just tired of putting up with battered situation, physically and mentally. My doctor had suggested the home to me and I took the advantage of a place to hide and sort out my true feelings.

I have been there for 4 1/2 months now and I can honestly say that thanks to the wonderful staff and counselor I have found myself and I am working to work on a brighter future.

The mercy home is run by our conscientious leader Carol Borchers who devoutly puts in many hours daily and give many helpful advice and counseling to all her clients. She is very patient and understanding, she

give everyone in there her personal attention. Any women who comes in are welcomed by her or her staff and are guided to take the right step in life let their clients know that they don't have to stay in a battered situation and that there is a way out without feeling guilty or embarrassed as one would many years ago. The home also gives us client a place to stay as long as we desire. We feel that we can come whenever we please and are not required to stay if we find that we can make it on our own.

I personally find it a perfect answer for my situation. I was able to read a lot and pray a lot to our wonderful God that he will help me to direct my life straight. Our counselor has also helped me a lot and made me feel comfortable and open up my true feelings and share them with other clients.

I really feel sorry for the women of many years ago, whom had no place to turn to. They had to stay in their bad marriage and put up with lots of unnecessary battered situation. We thank everyone who is involved in the direction of operating the mercy home throughout our country. It is a God's blessing for such a wonderful home.

Yours truly
Marie Edwards

Jinda Ann
Phillips
1713 A-6th AV.
So.

2-17-83

To whom this may concern:

Briefly I will share my life with you, Since I was a very small child I was a victim of mental and physical abuse. When I reached the age of 16 my parents divorced after 18 years of marriage. Unknowing to me, I was in such of security and love and married a young man I thought was the answer to the rest of my life. I was pregnant and 17 years old by this time. Not long approximately 2 months after I married I was assaulted with a butcher knife and raped around by him. For the next 16 months I was physically abused repeatedly. I divorced him after a year and a half. Not 6 months passed and I became involved with another man and on the day of my divorce I married him. On our wedding night he would not even touch me and called me a bitch. Not long approximately 6 months and the physical abuse started and the most severe mental abuse, from verbal actions. For the next 14 years I remained in this situation fighting alcoholism and the abuse, never being able to free my self from this relationship. I never had the support from my family or others.

I was unaware of how very sick I my self was, so it probably wouldn't have mattered.

Upon coming to Great Falls, Mt., and 4 days later I received my last beating. The evening came and on the T.V. I heard of the Mercy home and a telephone number. One month passed and ~~and~~ finally got up enough nerve to call the number. I remember putting all I could carry in a cloth basket and making my desperate run for my life to the Mercy Home.

This has been 5 months ago. I my self went thru the C.D.U. in Great Falls, as thru all the years I became addicted to prescription drugs and alcohol. I am now attending the Great Falls College, and working for the Great Falls High school with the drug addicts and mentally and physically abused teenagers. I am working on an associate degree in counseling.

Presently I am 34 years old with 3 children born from my past.

With out the support and the wonderful love the Fathered Woman, and the counseling, love, care, and sharing of the Mercy Home, I would still be a woman with no sight.

May God bless all those who helped me regain my life and happiness.
Very Sincerely Linda Shellen
children

The help I received from the
Mercy Home

I left my Ex husband Sept 1st 1982, (let me note that I divorced him in 81 but was too afraid to leave him, until I heard about the Mercy Home) I then came to Great Falls, and the Welfare Dept. referred me to Carol Borchum, head of the Mercy Home.

The Mercy Home not only helped me ~~gain~~ my self esteem but also helped me realize that my children were mentally suffering, when I thought that no matter what its best to keep the family together.

They also helped me get financial aid, helped place my children and I in low income housing, they also helped me find furniture and clothing for my children.

I can honestly say Christmas would have been a very sad day in my ^{home} if it weren't for Carol Borchum, for she had made sure we had a turkey, and nice extra gifts like coats, hats, gloves, hats ect.

So I thank the Lord that now there is a place like the Mercy Home that will help women who are in the same situation. I was in ^{life} is beautiful now, and I have lots of hope for a better future.)) Sincerely yours

Feb. 17, 83

(1) My name is Ronda. I was a client of the Mercy Home in Great Falls, Mt.

I have nothing but the kindest, deepest, warm feelings for Carol Burchard and the staff of the Mercy Home, held within my heart.

From the first day I entered the Mercy Home I never felt that I wasn't important enough to be cared about.

They gave me and my 2 children the support we needed. How?

#1. They protectively took me to work and back every day.

#2. They set up child care

Services for my Children,
transported them to
and from the child care
center and took care of
the bill.

#3. Helped me find legal
help, and Carol has
been by my side through
the thick and thin.

#4. My car needed some
care. Carol talked to
a business man and
I was able to get it fixed,
with a payment plan I
could live with. She
helped me established
Credit, that is so often
hard for a women trying
to begin a new life

#5 When my children
were kidnapped over

the Christmas Holiday. I was welcomed back into the home, even after I had moved into my own place a week before.

These are just a few of the material items of help I recieved from the Mercy Home. I can't begin to express the emotional, moral and physical support I recieved. I came away from the Mercy Home a new person.

I am truly thankful the Mercy Home and Carol Butchers was there when I truly needed them. I feel the Mercy Home is a lifesaver and a very much important and needed program in Great Falls, and other

Communities through out
the State of Montana, and
even the U.S.A.

Though I'm on my own,
I know if I ever truly
needed the Mercy Home,
they would be there.

I just hope it will
continue to be there for
the woman in the future
to come, who like so
many have needed and
had the opportunity to
have a place to go and
some one to care, when
it really looks like there
isn't.

February 15, 1983

The Honorable Pete Story
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Senator Story,

I am writing to ask you to support the continuation of additional funding of the Domestic Violence Grant Program with the 6% General Fund Monies in the Fiscal Analyst's Budget and in the Governor's Budget over and above the Marriage License Fee monies that we have totally funded the Domestic Violence Grant Program with since July of 1979.

In February of 1977 the Montana Legislature started working with us to start solving the problem of Domestic Violence by a Senate-House Joint Resolution which mandated Crime Control to study Spouse Abuse in Montana. That Study was made and called 'Spouse Battering in Montana'. In April 1978, A State Task Force on Spouse Abuse was established to read and study 'the Study' and make recommendations to the 1979 Legislature. In Addition to the Legislation that has been passed by you in the last 3 legislatures, The Montana Task Force on Spouse Abuse has been able to have written a State Training Packet on Spouse Abuse developed for Mental Health Professionals and Clergy, a Spouse Abuse Protocol in the 61 State Hospitals and a Rape Protocol in the 61 State Hospitals, a booklet with the services Statewide entitled 'Battered Women Rights and Options in Montana'; do "Community Intervention Workshops sponsored by the Law Enforcement Academy; plus spearhead grass roots education in Communities and State Workshops in Training Advocates, Training in the use of the State Training Packet, and Workshop in the latest research on the Batterer and The Continuing Cycle of Domestic Violence.

The Great Falls Mercy Home, Inc. opened in May 1977, our first Shelter in Montana and one of 30 in the United States addressing the problem of Spouse Abuse. We have been able to spearhead 6 other Shelters in the State and 10 Spouse Abuse Task Forces who have Safe homes (private homes for 3 day intervention) and network with the Shelters, in addition to having grass roots education and outreach to all parts of the State. In my more recent updated services and educational outreach the *asterisk denotes Shelters.

Hi-Line Help for Abused Spouses has done education & outreach to: Harlem, Fort Belnap, Hays-Lodge Pole, Kremlin, Havre, Chinook, Rudyard, Chester, Malta.

**Great Falls has done education, technical assistance and outreach to: Kremlin, Gilford, Hingham, Havre, Chester, Joplin, Choteau & Fairfield; Browning, Shelby, Cut Bank, Conrad; Butte; Cascade, Stockett, Lewistown

**Missoula has done outreach and education and training recently to:

A. Hamilton, Stevensville, Darby; Kalispell and Whitefish

B. Seeley Lake, Ronan, Frenchtown, Milltown, Potomac

Kalispell has done education and outreach & training to:

A. Libby and Whitefish

Glendive, Glasgow and Miles City have a 17 County State Grant and have done outreach to

A. Sidney

B. Glendive --outreach to Wibaux, Terry, and Circle

C. Glasgow is developing a LEGAL PACKET currently

**Helena has done education and training to: Shelter Name is: Friendship Center

A. Townsend and Boulder and Augusta

**Bozeman has done outreach education and training to:

A. Livingston and White Sulfer Springs, Dillon

Madison County Unit Spouse Abuse Program has done education and outreach to

A. Dillon area and Ennis

Twin Bridges has done education and outreach in that area.

**Butte opened their Shelter in 1981, called Safe Space

**Reservation Shelter for Salish-Kootenai tribe recently opened in Pablo-Ronan-Polson Area

**Billings opened their Shelter in Oct. 1980, and continues to do outreach in that area.

In September 1981 Bill Curry, a Staff writer for the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post came to Great Falls and did a FRONT PAGE STORY IN THE L.A. Times about Mercy Home and Montana and how the Montana Legislature raised the marriage license fee to fund Domestic Violence. (Enclosed see copy). Then, CBS NEWS came in and did a story on it and it was aired on Dan Rther's CBS NEWS on Dec. 31/81, AND ON THE MTN NEWS IN THE STATE several times.

There are now 15 States who have modeled their Domestic Violence funding after Montana and the marriage license fee!! However, some states have other funding such as Wyoming which has 1.5 Million in Oil Impacted monies to Fund Domestic Violence. A Shelter as large as Mercy Home (which can accomodate 22-27 women and children) in other states is funded for \$220,000. compared to Mercy Home's 1982 budget of \$65,000. They have a staff of 11 and we are operating this year with a staff of 4 and have to have innovative supportive staff through volunteers and College and Nursing Interns. In addition, I had to write 10 grants to fund the \$65,000. budget in 1982 and the Director in Wyoming does not have to write any.

I was very proud at the 2nd National Conference Against Domestic Violence in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this summer to be able to report the 'grass roots' services and education that we have all over the STATE OF MONTANA and how we had worked with the past 3 Legislatures, the Governors, and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to have education and services starting all over the state. Due to the economic conditions and high unemployment (which is a triggering event for Domestic Violence) we are all seeing a tremendous increase in our client loads. With some General Fund monies we will be able to continue to stretch every penny to benefit the whole State as we have been for the last 5 years.

Sincerely yours,

Caryl Wickes Borchers

Caryl Wickes Borchers
Executive Director, Great Falls Mercy Home, Inc.

Chair, Montana State Task Force on Spouse Abuse
April 1978 through September 1982

Currently, a Region II Representative to the
recently formed MONTANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE in October 1982 (a member organization)

	month/yrtd									
	SEP	YTD	OCT	YTD	NOV	YTD	DEC	YTD		
7. STATUS OF WOMEN SEEKING AID										
7a. Battered	9	94	7	101	12	113	10	123		
7b. Transient	5	23	5	28	3	31	1	32		
7c. Transient & Battered	5	56	5	61	6	70	7	77		
7d. Psychological Trauma (fear of abuse, confusion)	3	16	2	18	0	18	0	18		
8. LOCATION OF RESIDENCE PRIOR (in shelter)										
8a. Cascade County	11	109	9	118	14	132	11	143		
8b. Montana	4	56	3	64	7	71	5	76		
8c. Other (out of state)	6	24	2	26	3	29	2	31		
9. REFERRED FROM										
9a. Crisis Center	2	65	1	66	2	68	1	69		
9b. Law Enforcement	1	25	1	26	4	30	2	32		
9c. SRS	1	16	1	17	1	18	1	19		
9d. Other	17	82	12	99	17	115	14	129		
10. OUTREACH AND TELEPHONE ADVOCACY										
10a. Clients served this month	67	371	61	432	44	421	50	521		
10b. Individuals relocated in Cascade County	12	52	1	53	6	59	6	65		
11. AID PROVIDED										
11a. Shelter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
11b. Meals Total	1135	10418	1072	11490	1300	12790	1251	14041		
Adult Clients	459	4013	443	4456	494	4950	554	5504		
Children	565	5419	514	5933	673	6606	573	7179		
Staff	107	943	110	1053	115	1168	105	1273		
Guests	4	43	5	48	12	66	19	85		
11c. Transportation										
11d. Support Groups (average of 10 people served per month)										
12. VOLUNTEER HOURS	420.5	3780	538	4318	544	4862	438	5300		
12a. Houseparent	240	2184	248	2432	240	2672	248	2920		
12b. Volunteers	80.5	696	190	886	204	1090	90	1180		
12c. Director and Board Members (20 + 20 hrs, respectively)	160	900	100	1000	100	1100	100	1200		

REFERRED FROM AND REFERRED TO: SRS Legal Aid Crisis Center Opportunities Inc. WCA Women's Group FISH
 St. Vincent de Paul Chaplains Out of town (shelter exchange) Pachon and Hammer Enterprises WCA
 Home Bound Teaching Detox Center Passages Court of Conciliation Psychiatrists A Alamen Counseling
 Salvation Army Mt. Job Service WIC Bill Sheriff Police Mental Health Hospitals Clinics
 County Attorney Women's Resource Center Indian Rd. Center Schools Mosley Center

		month/ytd											
		Unduplicated Count of Program Beneficiaries (in shelter)											
		1a. Total Continuing from Previous Fiscal Year											
		1b. Total New for the Year											
		1c. Total Outreach Advocacy for the Year											
		SEPT	YTD	OCT	YTD	NOV	YTD	DEC	YTD				
1.	Unduplicated Count of Program Beneficiaries (in shelter)	41	2091	42	2133	55	2188	38	2226				
	1a. Total Continuing from Previous Fiscal Year	5	—	5	—	5	—	5	—				
	1b. Total New for the Year	41	430	42	472	55	527	38	565				
	1c. Total Outreach Advocacy for the Year	67	371	61	432	49	481	50	531				
2.	AGE GROUP (women and children in shelter)												
	2a. Infants under 5	12	108	17	125	23	148	14	162				
	2b. Between 5 and 12	5	120	5	125	8	133	6	139				
	2c. Between 13 and 17	4	16	2	18	0	18	0	18				
	2d. Between 18 and 29	17	93	12	105	17	122	12	134				
	2e. Between 30 and 64	8	91	6	97	7	104	6	110				
	2f. 65 and over	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2				
3.	SEX												
	3a. Male	10	134	10	144	16	160	8	168				
	3b. Female	31	296	32	328	39	367	30	397				
4.	ETHNIC BACKGROUND												
	4a. White	36	306	37	343	30	373	24	399				
	4b. Black	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9				
	4c. Hispanic	0	10	0	10	2	12	0	12				
	4d. Oriental	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1				
	4e. Native American	5	104	4	108	22	130	11	141				
	4f. Other Ethnic Minority	0	—	1	1	1	2	1	3				
	4g. Not known	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—				
5.	FAMILY INCOME												
	5a. Below official poverty level	6	69	9	78	8	86	10	96				
	5b. At near poverty level	5	84	8	92	9	101	8	109				
	5c. Middle income locality median	9	51	1	52	6	58	0	58				
	5d. Upper Income	1	6	1	7	1	8	0	8				
	5e. Not known	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—				
6.	USE												
	6a. Number of persons at shelter	41	429	42	471	55	526	38	564				
	6b. Number of women at shelter	21	189	19	208	24	232	18	250				
	6c. Total days women used shelter	195	1646	209	1855	201	2056	143	2199				
	6d. Total Beds occupied	41	397	42	439	55	494	38	532				
	6e. Average length of stay (women)	9.3	—	11	—	8.4	—	7.8	—				

WLF - Domestic Violence Funding

exhibit 17
2/18/83

Pelinda Lake

The Women's Lobbyist Fund strongly supports the proposed budget for the domestic violence and battered spouse programs.

Battered women constitute a sizable group within our population and it is estimated that this type of violence is generally on the increase. The rise in battering is particularly acute during bad economic times such as we face now. It is also in these times that many women have the least resources to leave battering situations.

According to the survey done by the Women's Bureau entitled "Women and Work", an estimated 7-8% of Montana's women are in regular battering situations and many have argued that that figure drastically underestimates the true incidence of battering in this state. In fiscal year 1982 3948 men, women, and children were service recipients of the domestic violence aid, provided by state government, according to the Domestic Violence

Program Reporting Service of the Evaluation Bureau of SRS. At the same time 250 battering incidents were being reported per month to county officials across Montana - again a figure which underestimates the actual incidence of battering. Nationally, a

study has shown that one battering incident occurs every 18 minutes.


These statistics give some idea of the potential demand for services for domestic violence programs in Montana.

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DISTRICT COURT

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

STATE OF MONTANA

IN CHAMBERS

R. D. MCPHILLIPS, JUDGE

434-2451

SHELBY, MONTANA

W. J. MAY
COURT REPORTER

278-3662

CONRAD, MONTANA

exhibit 19
2/18/83

TETON COUNTY - CHOTEAU
PONDERA COUNTY - CONRAD
GLACIER COUNTY - CUT BANK
TOOLE COUNTY - SHELBY

February 15, 1983

Honorable John Shontz, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Human Services
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

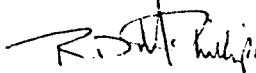
Dear Chairman Shontz:

Please be advised that this letter is intended to document my support for the total S.R.S. budget appropriation request. I am, of course, most interested in services to youth and families that appear before my court. Therefore, I am particularly supportive of the foster care appropriation request, the emotionally disturbed expansion request, and the appropriation request for Big Brothers and Sisters.

It seems reasonable to me that a 6% inflationary provider increase and a 3.75% increase in child care days provided is an appropriate request as it relates to foster care needs. It also appears to me that a foundation needs to be developed and a process implemented for dealing with emotionally disturbed children on the community level. In addition to this, I would point out that Big Brothers and Big Sisters have served many youth and children in need of care.

In respect to the economic climate today in Montana and increasing demands upon the court to deal with domestic problems, the appropriation request is in dire need of your support. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



R. D. McPhillips
District Judge

eln

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Judy Cox. I came here today from Missoula to advocate for passage of an In-Home Services Legislation for the elderly.

The information I will relate to you is derived from the position I have held the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ years as the Home Chores and Transportation Coordinator for the Missoula Senior Citizen Center and the past $1\frac{1}{2}$ years as the Information and Referral Technician for Missoula County.

My presence here today is to advocate for a cause in which I vehemently believe, but I feel I am also representative for the spoken and unspoken voices of the needy elderly I have encountered within the performance of my duties. Although I feel qualified to speak only to the experiences within the structure of our local services, I cannot but feel that our elderly problems and needs are not an atypical or isolated incidence of those persons experiencing problematical aging.

The defined purpose of the Missoula Home Chores Project is to meet the needs of senior citizens who desire to remain in their own home, in the least restrictive manner; but who have difficulty maintaining a safe, sanitary, and pleasant environment due to impaired physical ability.

Services provided within that structure include, to seniors 60+, general housecleaning, fall and spring cleaning, snow removal, minor home repairs, essential yard care, and wood cutting and stacking. The staff of the urban Missoula project consists of one full-time Coordinator, seven part-time housecleaners including one Green Thumb worker, three yard care providers, and one senior providing minor home repair services. We also enlist the services of numerous on-call workers to perform tasks exceeding the capabilities or time element of regular providers.

A unit of service is considered to be one contact for the purpose of providing any allowable task. Time required for each unit of service is approximately two to three hours for regularly performed services. Our urban project provides an average of 217 units of service per month. Our unduplicated clientele yearly is approximately 350 senior citizens.

A general description of a typical Home Chores client is median age 78, low-income, acutely or chronically ill, with mobility ranging from bed-ridden to ambulatory. Many of our clients are homebound due to physical impairment or social detachment. To adequately describe the physical, emotional, or social complexities of many Home Chores clients would comprise a separate presentation. I wish it were possible for each legislator to personally experience at least one Home Chores client contact. It would be an educational experience not liable to be soon forgotten.

Our original HB 217 proposal defined the following financial difficulties:

a. Current funding levels of Older American Act monies enabled us to primarily hire only Work Study students. This created a two-fold dilemma. Work Study allocations currently have diminished the number of students available to non-campus positions. Unit cost in FY 1980 with available Work Study was \$8.99. Unit cost in FY 1981 without Work Study increased to \$11.84 and FY 1982 to \$13.15. While Work Study was a financial asset to our project, the irregularity of student employment eliminated the continuity needed to enable us to better serve the overall needs of our clients, such as recognizing the necessity for referral to other agencies and programs and/or working cooperatively with those agencies to meet the multiple needs of our clients.

b. Funding levels necessitated that services be limited to the urban Missoula area. Rural Missoula County senior citizen needs were unassessed and certainly unmet.

c. Older American Act monies have been "frozen", but actually resulted in a decrease in our Title III allocation. To compensate, priorities were re-evaluated with a resultant discontinuation of some previously performed services such as home repairs requiring more time for completion than a unit of housecleaning service. Also, priority services were minimized with the intent of providing basic needed services to as many seniors requiring assistance.

Our Home Chores Project was accepted as one of the recipients of the original HB 217 funds. Our first year we requested approximately \$17,000, primarily to expand services to rural Missoula County residents. Our actual allocation was \$4,300.00 on a nine month contract.

Our proposal stipulated that we would expand services to an additional 20 to 25 unduplicated clients in the Lolo and East Missoula locales. Our HB 217 funds were spent out in a five month period. During that time, we were successful in that we surpassed our projection by expanding our services to 44 unduplicated clients not only in Lolo and East Missoula, but also Arlee and Seeley Lake.

Our second year HB 217 proposal requested again approximately \$17,000 for the continuation of services to these rural clients. Actual allocation to be received is \$7,170.00 on a 12 month contract.

As of February 1, 1983, projections are that our HB 217 allocation will be spent out by May 1. During the period July 1, 1982 thru January 31, 1983 our HB 217 allocation has permitted us to provide 453 units of service to 63 unduplicated clients at a total cost of \$4,593.45. Those figures reflect a cost per unit of \$10.14. Administrative costs are absorbed by the Title III allocation.

Expansion to outlying and remote areas has represented a change in the types and levels of services required to meet the needs of rural residents and the resultant cost in providing those services. Clients in the rural areas have been determined to require a higher level and lengthier unit of service due to inavailability of other services and isolation. Also, mileage between isolated and rural householders is oftentimes as much as twenty miles or more per client contact. Our regular budget could not absorb the cost of rural services without great hardship to all Home Chores clients. Therefore, I heartily implore passage of legislation to extend In-home services for the elderly; and thereby, permitting continuation of the services herein described.

While preparing my testimony, the Legislative Issue of the Montana Elder made a timely appearance in my office. The item sub-titled "In-Home Services" under the caption GOVERNOR WANTS SRS BUDGET INCREASED, page six of the Montana Elder, makes reference to a comment by Mrs. Rippengale of the LFA that she assumes the Legislature will not increase the original \$250,000 allocation due to the fact that only \$240,000 of that allocation was used. I cannot begin to assume why any portion of that allocation was unused, if indeed that is true. I can only reiterate the demonstrated implementation of services to which our Home Chores Project could have placed a portion of that unused allocation.

It is with tremendous consternation on my part that the statement made by Mrs. Rippengale or the existence of unused funds could be used as a determining factor for future allocations; and thereby, misconstruing the very real need for the In-Home services.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank all parties concerned for the past and current HB 217 allocation that has allowed us to provide optimum service to our urban and rural senior citizens. More importantly, it has allowed hundreds of senior citizens to remain in or return to their homes; thereby, maintaining their dignity, tranquility, and emotional stability.

It is my firm belief that any monies allocated for In-Home services provides its' own rate of return to the state coffers. While our elderly are afforded the opportunity to remain in an independent life style with in-home assistance, they also remain productive members of our society; be it as a volunteer, educator, tax payer, or consumer. It is also my firm belief, one that I feel is shared by many, that the right to independent living is not a right for us to condescendingly grant or deny, but rather a right that has been EARNED by each and every senior citizen.