

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 7, 1985

The meeting of the Human Services Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Cal Winslow on March 7, 1985 at 8:05 a.m. in Room 108 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

Chairman Winslow announced that the amount the subcommittee cut off the total budget was approximately \$900,000.

Peter Blouke discussed the savings resulted by taking a 3 percent inflation rate: \$68,450 in FY86, and \$127,494 in FY87. This is general fund savings in SRS. The savings for DHES would be \$12,202 in FY86 and \$22,814 in FY87. The savings in the Labor Department would be \$2,482 in FY86 and \$4,636 in FY87. These are all approximate figures.

Chairman Winslow pointed out the areas of the Medicaid waiver, and said expansion of that program is a good expansion. He said this is one that the committee has to look at.

Dave Lewis said a survey of GA indicated that 9 percent of the GA cases could be moved to Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The cost per year would be \$100,000 in extra staff. He also said as a result of a court order, there are 1,000 cases to review; a third of those 1,000 cases will be removed from SSI. A large number of those will probably end up on GA. He proposed taking \$100,000 per year out of the GA budget and transfer it to Legal Services, and line item it for representation of SSI claimants. He said the department will come out ahead as far as the whole GA budget is concerned.

Representative Rehberg wanted clarification that the committee does have the ability to state that this funding is a one-time opportunity. Whoever is on this committee next session will be able to see this and see how many the department moved.

Senator Christiaens made a motion that out of the \$800,000 given to the Medicaid waiver program, the committee cut that amount in half to \$400,000; \$200,000 per year.

Discussion followed concerning what this would do to the program and how it would affect it.

The motion PASSED.

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Discussion followed concerning the addition of eligibility technicians to the department by the committee; what the funding is for those salaries. It is primarily county and federal money.

Chairman Winslow said that Lee Tickell did not want the committee to put restrictions on eligibility technicians (ET), and to let them hire what they want.

Discussion followed concerning the number of ETs in the state assumed counties, and the various counties' number of ETs.

Chairman Winslow said they could add additional ETs to the non-state assumed counties, but said he was worried that the state assumed counties would also want more ETs.

Chairman Winslow asked Dave Lewis if he has the authority to move those ETs around from county to county; he has that authority.

Senator Christiaens made a motion to add six (6) additional eligibility technicians to the non-state assumed counties, which would bring the ET level to 22; and to leave the level in the state assumed counties at 12. This gives the department the authority to do so.

The motion PASSED.

Chairman Winslow said there could be a positive savings if there could be a move of some cases off of GA and onto SSI.

Senator Christiaens made a motion to line item \$100,000 to have to be reviewed in two years.

The motion PASSED with Senator Story voting NO.

Representative Bradley said she would rather the committee decide on the 3 percent inflation rate all over the board.

Discussion followed concerning the full appropriations committee making these cuts and this subcommittee not wanting to make any cuts.

Senator Christiaens said he believes that at the current level, the budgets have some built-in padding and fat. He said that the fat and padding are automatically built-in.

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Discussion followed concerning changing the payment level from 50 to 49 percent, and this change bringing the committee close to the \$2 million cuts asked for.

Dave Lewis said he cannot make those cuts in AFDC, elderly, and the disabled without making cuts in the able-bodied.

Representative Bradley made a motion to accept the three (3) percent inflation level over the whole budget.

The motion PASSED.

Discussion followed concerning what the payments would be for a family of two for AFDC and LIEAP and food stamps.

Additional discussion followed concerning what the payment level at 50 percent would be for AFDC.

Representative Rehberg made a motion to reduce the payment level for AFDC and GA from 50 percent to 49 percent.

The motion PASSED.

Chairman Winslow said the committee will meet tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. for review on where the committee stands.

Dr. Drynan discussed the action taken yesterday by the committee reducing the subdivision review budget, and not putting the authority back into the earmarked account; this will have to be done.

Representative Rehberg made a motion to put the authority back into the earmarked account for the subdivision review bureau.

The motion PASSED.

Dr. Drynan discussed the additional \$50,000 needed for the Laboratory Contingency Fund so the department has the authority to spend out of that earmarked account for doing the tests if the test fees go up. He gave the committee special language so they could move that appropriation (EXHIBIT 1).

Representative Rehberg made a motion to give the department the authority to spend out of the earmarked account for the above reasons.

The motion PASSED.

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Chairman Winslow expressed thanks to everyone for working with the subcommittee for these difficult decisions. He said he appreciated the committee's help in making these decisions to the best of their ability.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.



CAL WINSLOW, Chairman

LABORATORY CONTINGENCY FUND

State Special Revenue Fund \$50,000 Biennial Appropriation

State Special Revenue Appropriations for the Microbiology and Chemistry Laboratories are based on current level operations for fiscal years 1986 and 1987. If additional State Special Revenue becomes available and the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences can document services beyond current level, the contingency fund may be used. The additional services must be certified by the Office of Budget and Program Planning and a copy sent to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst for review.

Narrative Justification:

The Department of Health is required to charge fees to partially support operating cost of the laboratories. Due to the unknown number of tests that will be performed in the 1987 biennium, a contingency fund of \$50,000 State Special Revenue is requested. The contingency fund will be used to purchase supplies and material if the number of tests exceeds those anticipated under current level funding.

VISITORS' REGISTER

Human Services Sub COMMITTEE

BILL NO. _____

DATE 3-7-85

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Dave Wanzenried	415 Adams, Itasca, MT	X	
ROD SAGER	DEPT. OF LABOR + INDUSTRY	X	
Bruce McElhough	Dept. of L&I		
GARY CURTIS	DEPT OF LABOR		
Jim Nolan	SAS		
DAVE LEWIS	"		
Jack Ellery	"		
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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.