

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

March 21, 1985

The meeting of the Human Services Subcommittee was called to order by Vice Chairman Chris Christiaens on March 21, 1985 at 6:12 p.m. in Room 108 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present, with the exception of Representative Dorothy Bradley, who was excused.

Senator Manning made a motion to have the committee take an in-depth look at the Human Resource Development Councils, and also the Rocky Mountain Development Council; the HRDCs in Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, and Butte to see if they are doing everything that they are supposed to do.

Senator Christiaens said that the Department of Labor could look at these programs and do an audit.

Representative Rehberg asked if this is an inquiry into the financial side; it is an inquiry into the performance of these programs.

The motion PASSED.

HOUSE BILL NO. 934

Hearing commenced on House Bill no. 934. Representative Toni Bergene, District #41, sponsor of the bill, stated that this bill is to appropriate money to train day care providers. She discussed statistics concerning women in the work force, and especially single women. She also pointed out that intellectual stimulation is very important for children, and discussed those important factors in the early development of young children.

PROPONENTS

Bill Crivello (72:A:104), director of Flathead Industries for the Handicapped in Kalispell, represented day care consumers. He emphasized the needs of parents of disabled children. He said that good quality child care for disabled children is very hard to find.

Mickey Nelson, Lewis & Clark County Coroner, said that he has seen many deaths that could have been avoided had there been the proper training. He referred to a day care handbook that the federal government published. He discussed all of the things to consider when operating a day care for children, and also the problems that can

happen to children in a day care setting.

Steve Perlmutter (72:A:248), chairman of the board of directors of Children's World of Helena, discussed the average wage paid to child care providers, which is \$4 per hour. He said it is difficult to find dedicated and well-qualified people to work in a situation with that pay.

Georgeanne Paul read a letter written by Susan Christofferson, director of the Glacier Community Coordinated Child Care in Kalispell. She said she, as a consumer, has had great difficulty in obtaining consistent, quality child care.

Larry Dominick, director of the Human Resource Development Council in Kalispell, said that one of his staff returned from a registered day care provider in Montana, and reported that the home was, literally, a mess. He urged the committee to give HB 934 every consideration.

Connie Flaherty Erickson, representing the Women's Lobbyist Fund, supports HB 934. She said one way of providing quality day care for children is to provide proper training for day care providers.

Katherine Campbell read from her prepared testimony (EXHIBIT 1).

Jim Jensen (72:A:439), representing the Montana Day Care Association, gave the committee a copy of a hand-out by the League of Women Voters in Helena in support of HB 934 (EXHIBIT 2). He also discussed the responsibility of day care with SRS and submitted a letter written by Ellen Feaver in support of HB 934 (EXHIBIT 3).

There were no opponents.

Senator Christiaens asked how many private agencies are felt to be qualified to be providing this kind of training.

Norma Harris, administrator of the Community Services Division of SRS, said that there are only two; the Montana Day Care Association and the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children which the department contracts with. She knows of other appropriate providers.

There was additional discussion regarding the RFP process, the registration and licensing requirements, and day care centers being licensed and day care homes not being licensed.

In summary, Representative Bergene thanked the committee for being so attentive and asking pertinent questions.

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There being no further discussion on HB 934, the hearing was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



CAL WINSLOW, Chairman

Human Services Subcommittee

Date 3-21-85

CS-30

IN SUPPORT OF HB 934

Exhibit 1
3-21-85
HB 934
Campbell

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Katherine Campbell, representing the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children. Thank you for this opportunity to express our support of HB 934 regarding the training of day care providers.

Our members share a strong commitment to improve the quality of services to children and to the professional development of teachers and caregivers. Currently, the Federal Registry of Occupations rates day care providers the same as washroom attendants and dog groomers. By not acting on the need to train caregivers we are, in effect, stating that we are willing to let Montana's children be cared for in kennels!

The training of caregivers is an important component of quality. Many day care providers who have been successful parents find themselves frustrated when faced with the reality of assisting other parents with their child-rearing responsibilities. Training can provide assistance to meet the basic needs of the children in their care. Our Association believes training should include: meeting safety and health standards, creating a physical environment that insures opportunity for childhood exploration and learning, program administration that gives attention to the developmental needs of children, a curriculum that actively involves and stimulates the learning process, child development training, and a evaluation process that ensures quality care and education are provided and maintained.

It should be stressed that our Association believes such training can best be provided by the professionals in each of these particular areas.

43,000 Montana children under the age of 6 have mothers that work outside of the home. The care these children receives has a far-reaching effect on that child's future. Dr. Burton White, noted child psychologist, conducted research at Harvard which established that the intellectual stimulation provided before 2 years of age has a strong positive influence on intellectual capacity. Such children that receive early preschool education are also better able to meet the requirements of primary school, as well as being retained in grade less often.

A 20 year, long term study by the Perry School Project also states: FOR EACH 2 YEARS OR \$6,000 INVESTED IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION THERE WILL BE A \$15,000 RETURN. A 250% RETURN ON EACH DOLLAR INVESTED. These are created by: (1) fewer years the child spends in special education programs, (2) higher scores on achievement tests, (3) less trouble with the law,

(4) less likely to be unemployed and need welfare, (5) less likely to drop out of high school and (6) less likely to commit crimes resulting in prison sentences. It also found that 1/2 of the welfare mothers receiving reliable, quality child care found full time jobs and left the welfare rolls.

The availability of reliable, quality childcare is also an employment issue. The statistics published by the Montana Dept. of Labor and Research states that:

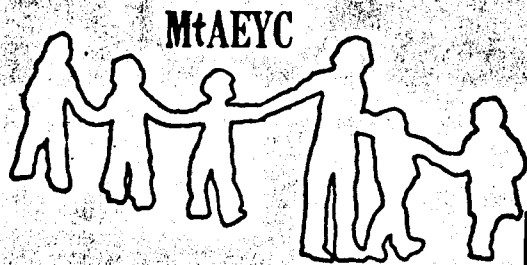
"Employers found that such care:

- reduced job turnover by 57%
- reduced absenteeism by 72%
- improved work attitudes by 55% "

These statistics reinforce the importance of quality in the care of Montana's children. Every day makes a difference in the life of a young child. Training for day care providers can make those days better for thousands of Montana children.

MAKE CHILDREN MONTANA'S PRIORITY

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to express the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children support for HB 934.



Montana Association
for the
Education of Young Children

Exhibit 2
3-21-85
HB 934
Jensen

League of Women Voters of Helena

March 21, 1985

IN SUPPORT OF: HB 934 AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE GENERAL
FUND TO TRAIN DAY CARE PROVIDERS

BASIS OF SUPPORT:

League of Women Voters supports this bill on its position regarding the support of programs in occupational education and retraining.

LWV also supports any efforts to achieve equality of opportunity in education by including and encouraging the participation of private institutions and should involve the clients in the planning and implementation of these educational programs.

These programs must be carefully tailored to the educational needs of the people they are intended to reach and, should be carried out by personnel competent to meet the specific requirements of their jobs.

League of Women Voters has long recognized that child care programs are a key support service for families and asks that such programs receive an equal chance to participate in the planning and implementing of their educational opportunities.

Exhibit 3
3-21-85
HB 934
Jensen

March 21, 1985

TO: Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee
on Human Services

FR: Ellen Feaver, Treasurer
Board of Directors
Children's World Day Care Center

I support training money for day care workers based upon approximately ten years experience on the Board of Directors of Children's World Day Care Center. This Center has, through support of public agencies and Helenans, managed to provide training to its staff.

The benefits I have seen from having trained staff include the following:

1. In instances where day care workers have suspected a child was being abused at home, the workers knew how to confront the parents with the problem. They also knew how to work with parents to help the parents cope with their difficulties or to seek help from other sources when it was needed. I am aware of instances where children were being badly abused and through the help of trained day care workers, were able to stay in their homes because their parents received help from the day care workers.
2. Day care workers at Children's World have cared for children who were emotionally disturbed, physically handicapped and otherwise in need of attention from people with special skills. Some of these children were not eligible for government programs. Sometimes their parents and other people working with them determined that mainstreaming the child was in the child's best interest.

In a number of instances, trained day care workers have allowed children with special needs to learn to cope with other children in a so-called "normal" environment. Without special training on how to deal with these children with special needs, some of these young children could well have been headed toward more expensive special education or an institutional environment. Instead, very inexpensively from society's point of view, these children were helped by day care workers to go to normal classroom situations after their preschool years.

3. Children from single parent homes have been helped at the ages of 3, 4 and 5, to be equipped to enter kindergarten without the handicap of inattention that sometimes results from a single parent's limited time. Trained day care workers have been able to identify difficulties in large motor skill development, use of the hands for fine work, cognitive skills, and other developmental areas. Trained workers have been able then to concentrate their efforts on helping these very young children deal with weaknesses in their development. By the time they have gone to kindergarten, they were no longer behind.

I submit to you that a small investment in training day care workers can lead to a much more beneficial environment for preschool children. The costs to our society are tremendous when we do not deal properly with preschool children.

Identifying sexually or physically abused children, in itself, is a justifiable aim of training day care workers. I urge you to favorably consider House Bill 934.

VISITORS' REGISTER

Human Services Sub COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HB 934

DATE 3-21-85

SPONSOR Bergene

[illegible]

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.