

MEETING MINUTES  
HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE  
JANUARY 26, 1987

The meeting of the human services subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Cal Winslow at 8:02 a.m. in room 325 of the state Capitol building on January 26, 1987.

ROLL CALL: All members of the committee were present.

(19a:000) Peter Blouke, LFA, covered the issues pending committee recommendation and the policy decisions involved with the general assistance and AFDC programs.

(19a:060) Dave Lewis, director of the department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (DSRS), gave a brief overview of general assistance and the history of the state assumption of county programs since its implementation in 1983. He stated the current program run by the state in the twelve (12) assumed counties bears no resemblance to the programs operating in the 44 county operated programs. For example, Cascade county, a state assumed county, has a caseload of 600 on general assistance, while Yellowstone county, county operated, has 40 to 50 general assistance cases. The difference is due to three (3) separate court actions; one which set the level of general assistance at the same level as AFDC in the assumed counties, which basically set the program up as a flat grant program. The second court action ruled unconstitutional legislation denying payments to able bodied people without children under the age of 35 years of age. The pending court decision on appeal is on limiting payments to able bodied people without children. Currently 90% of the caseload exists in the 12 assumed counties. In county administered programs, the county commissioners determine how the program is to be run. In state assumed counties, the state is limited by court decisions and state law to run the programs in a particular manner that has encouraged growth of caseloads.

(19a:125) Sen Himsel asked if counties could opt out of the state assumed program. Mr. Tickell, administrator of Economic Assistance (EA), stated they could, but that it would be unlikely for a county to do so.

In response to a question from Chairman Winslow, Dave Lewis stated the 12 mills produce seven (7) million dollars a year. Currently 14 million dollars is received and 30 million dollars is paid out in benefits.

(19a:147) Lee Tickell then presented an overview of eligibility requirements for general assistance, including

resources, resource exclusions, income, and grant determination (exhibit 1).

(19a:264) Chairman Winslow questioned if land location and value was considered when resource exclusions were considered. Mr. Tickell stated it was not considered, but could be established in administrative rules.

(19a:308) Sen Manning asked how vehicles values were established and how part time income was considered in determination of benefits. Mr. Tickell stated vehicle value was established via NADA blue books, and could be contested by getting a statement from an auto broker or car lot on the true value of the car.

Mr. Tickell stated the "30 and a third" rule applies only under AFDC and works as an incentive for employment. This means for a person who earns \$90, the first \$30 is disregarded as incentive to work, plus one third of the remaining balance, or \$20 on this particular example.

(19a:400) In response to a question from Rep Bradley, the average general assistance (GA) able bodied recipient receives 3.2 months of assistance, while the length of stay is longer for those who are infirmed. The overall trend is for a longer length of time on assistance.

Responding to a second question from Rep Bradley, Mr. Tickell replied that in the last review done by the department, 24% - 26% of the clients at the time of application had been in the state less than 12 months.

Mr. Tickell then presented an overview of Project Work (exhibit 2), including expenditures, cost effectiveness, summary, and supporting chart.

(19a:570) In response to a question from Chairman Winslow, Mr. Tickell stated everyone eligible for the program had been able to get into the program.

Chairman Winslow then inquired if clients could decide not to participate in the program for a month and then return. Mr. Tickell stated they would not be eligible for general assistance if they refused to participate in Project Work, but that they could quit for a month and then reapply for general assistance.

(19a:628) Marie Christopher, Butte Community Union, then read her prepared testimony, which is exhibit 3.

(19b:018) Rodney Frey, coordinator of the Project Work Program in Lewis and Clark County, presented an overview including a client profile, program participation, and program termination information (exhibit 4).

Annalyn Stewart, a Program Work participant, spoke on the positive benefits she received under the program.

(19b:089) Diane Sands, Women's Lobbyist Fund, read her prepared testimony on the categories of women who benefit from general assistance (exhibit 5).

(19b:134) R. L. "Pinky" Nelson, Belt, Montana, read a prepared statement of his views of the state of the Montana economy, his plight as a general assistance recipient, and the unyielding system and life cycle in which he feels hopelessly trapped (exhibit 10).

Jim Warden, spoke in support of the work program and its continuation, and for the executive budget.

(19b:252) Linda Foss, Missoula, spoke on the positive skills she has received as a Project Work participant.

(19b:271) John Ortwein, representing the Montana Catholic Conference, read his prepared text (exhibit 6) in support of the general assistance program.

Charles Simpson, Project Work participant, told the committee how this program helped him to receive the training necessary to become gainfully employed. His objections to the program's afternoon sessions is exhibit 7.

(19b:352) Sister Johnelle Howanach, Concerned Citizens Coalition of the Great Falls - Belt area, submitted testimony written by Lydia Lindberg from Great Falls, and Christine Sanders, from Belt Montana (exhibits 8 and 9). The coalition is against any cuts in the general assistance or AFDC programs.

James Todd, Sand Coulee, spoke on his participation in the general assistance program from prepared testimony (exhibit 11).

(19b:399) Rodger Cox, of Missoula, spoke on his participation in the general assistance program due to a back injury. He is currently going to school to learn to read, write, and is studying math in preparation for a job.

(19b:407) Vern Sanders, Great Falls, is currently going back to school for his G.E.D., and as a general assistance recipient, is also involved in the Workfare program. His prepared testimony is exhibit 13.

Mignon Waterman, Montana Association of Churches, read her prepared testimony in support of general assistance. The Montana Association of Churches supports the funding of

social services so as to provide the necessities of life compatible with decency and health (exhibit 12).

Hugh Stanley, Missoula, spoke on the general assistance caseload in Missoula.

(19b:502) Sue Fifield, Montana Low Income Coalition (MLIC), briefly spoke in support of job creation, targeting a percent of created jobs toward public assistance people, and an extension of work programs.

(19b:531) Chet Kinsey, Helena Senior Citizens Association, expressed his concern over the future Montana economy and the unemployment situation.

Janet Pfauts, general assistance recipient, explained her current situation and reliance on the work program for help. Because she cannot read, she cannot find a job to help support herself and her husband.

Sen Himsel asked if the work program was available in the 44 counties that were not state assumed. Dave Lewis stated that some limited workfare slots were available. Project Work program is only available in the twelve (12) assumed counties.

(19b:078) Chairman Winslow asked for a clarification of the statistics presented on the Project Work Program. Rodney Frey, Lewis and Clark coordinator, stated the difference between the 70% to 80% who have been victims of child abuse or have problems with alcoholism and the 35% who are getting counseling or treatment is that treatment or counseling is strictly voluntary.

(20a:000) Rodney Frey, in response to another question from Chairman Winslow, noted the program is of six (6) month duration at phase three (3) of the program. Any longer participation is on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Tickell stated Project Work funding is being requested by SRS in the Assistance Payments programs. Funding is also included in the executive budget.

(20a:100) Lee Tickell then gave a brief overview of eligibility requirements for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). the overview included resources, income, and family size (exhibit 14).

Chairman Winslow asked if there was any discretion in the eligibility standards in the AFDC program. Mr. Tickell stated there was very little due to federal regulations.

In response to a question from Sen Himsl, Mr. Tickell stated this program covers all 56 counties.

In reply to a question from Chairman Winslow, Mr. Tickell stated the AFDC caseload and all assistance programs are being driven by the economy, following the national trend.

Chairman Winslow further questioned the impact of child support legislation passed in the last session. Mr. Tickell stated the legislation makes no impact on expenditures, but does make an impact general fund revenue. He stated in general the efforts are successful to return funds to the state.

Mr. Tickell further replied he felt that family sizes are increasing slightly and the duration on AFDC is increasing.

(20a:190) Barbara Archer, Women's Lobbyist Fund, read her prepared text (exhibit 15). They are requesting that AFDC be funded at 50% of poverty level and child care payments be raised from \$8 to \$10. They are in support of the Priorities for People recommendations (exhibit 15). Submitted with her testimony is a memo from the Battered Women's Shelter (exhibit 16).

(20a:240) Janie Sullivan, Options Unlimited participant from Missoula, spoke in support of raising the AFDC payments from 45% to 50% of the poverty level (exhibit 17).

(20a:272) Marie Schreiber, AFDC recipient from Missoula, read her prepared testimony (exhibit 18) urging incentives to encourage recipients to leave the program.

(20a:312) John Ortheim, Montana Catholic Conference, spoke in support welfare programs that provide recipients with adequate levels of support (exhibit 19).

Michael Kapla, AFDC recipient and father of two (2) sons, read his prepared testimony in support of increasing AFDC benefits from 45% to 50% of the poverty level (exhibit 20).

Diane Sands, Women's Lobbyist Fund, noted the state of Massachusetts had a ruling based on their constitution which requires that AFDC benefits be paid at 100% of poverty level. She stated that there is some potential that this ruling has implications for Montana under Montana's constitution.

Sue Fifield, Montana Low Income Coalition, reiterated that current AFDC levels should be maintained or increased, and positive incentives should be provided to those on public

assistance to encourage them to enter and be able to remain in the work force.

(20a:420) Chairman Winslow asked Sue Fifield to respond on the pilot program aimed at providing a college education for mothers on AFDC. She replied that the enrollment was limited to 50 statewide, and there are more women who would like to go to college through this incentive. She stated the program is working well.

In response to a question from Chairman Winslow, Dave Lewis stated for a person on AFDC to attend college in a WIN mandatory county, there has to be a waiver obtained from the Denver Regional Office. The Department of Labor had tried to obtain 100 such waivers to allow people to attend college. The number of WIN mandatory counties in Montana has been reduced due to federal cutbacks, and Hill and Gallatin are no longer WIN mandatory. The WIN program was reduced by 25% in FY 1987, and the president has proposed to eliminate the program.

In response to a question from Sen Manning, the WIN program evaluates needs of each client, and is not restrictive as to any advanced education program, i.e. Vo Tech, college, etc.

(20a:508) Rep Bradley asked for statistics delineating the age of new recipients. Mr. Tickell said he would provide a comparison sheet of current caseload and previous years caseload.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m. (20a:598)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cal Winslow", written over a horizontal line.

Cal Winslow, Chairman

## HUMAN SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jan. 26, 1987

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES  
Economic Assistance Division

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 1-26-87  
HB                     

GENERAL ASSISTANCE  
(Basic Eligibility)

General Assistance is a 100% state funded assistance program designed to meet the needs of individuals or families who do not have sufficient income or resources to sustain themselves and who do not meet eligibility criteria for other state and federal assistance programs.

Able bodied applicants are referred to a structured job search, training and work program. Participation in this program is mandatory (unless an individual is specifically exempted). Mandatory participants must cooperate in order to continue receiving assistance payments.

If an individual claims to be "infirm" or not able to participate in a work program that person will be referred to a designated physician for an evaluation.

RESOURCES:

The equity value of all countable resources is considered available to meet the needs of the household and is deducted from the grant award. Resources include all liquid and non liquid, real and personal property which any member of the household can legally sell.

RESOURCE EXCLUSIONS:

- ° Home of residence including adjoining land necessary for the support of the home not exceeding ten (10) acres.
- ° A vehicle not to exceed \$1,500 equity value.
- ° Personal items, household furniture, appliances and other essential household goods necessary for the operation of the home.
- ° Tools of a tradesman which are essential to the current or future employment of a household member. This exclusion applies for twelve (12) months from the date of last gainful employment in that trade.

INCOME:

All available income reasonably certain to be received by the household during the month of eligibility must be used to meet basic necessities before General Relief Assistance will be granted.

Any amount of income expected to be received in the month will be deducted from the grant award.

GRANT DETERMINATION:

Deduct countable income and resources from the assistance standard for the household size. The remainder is the monthly grant award amount the household is eligible for.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DIVISION

HOUSE BILL 12

STRUCTURED JOB SEARCH, TRAINING AND WORK PROGRAM

PROJECT WORK

OVERVIEW

The March 1986 Special Session of the 49th Legislature enacted House Bill 12 requiring participation in the Structured Job Search, Training and Work Program by all able bodied General Relief recipients in the twelve State Assumed Counties -- Cascade, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, and Silver Bow. The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has contracted with the Department of Labor and Industry to administer the program. The Department of Labor and Industry has subcontracted the delivery of services in each county with various providers: Job Service, Human Resource Development Council, County Commissions, AFL-CIO, and other similar agencies and groups.

Able bodied recipients are required to complete an assessment and testing component which includes the writing of an individual Employability Development Plan, a job readiness component, and an extended job search component. Specific program formats vary from county to county. Generally, an assessment is completed over a period of several days using the General Aptitude Test Battery and other appropriate testing tools. The Employability Development Plan summarizes the findings of the assessment and describes training needs. The job readiness component consists of two to four weeks of training including elements of applying for and retaining employment -- completing application forms, resumes, anticipating interview situations and questions, proper dress and personal hygiene, attitude and motivation. The final component requires recipient participation of 40 hours per week for six months in a combination of eight hours of supervised job search, and the remaining thirty two hours per week in remedial education, counseling, job skills training, workfare, and job seeking or other related activities.

EXPENDITURES

The total budget for FY 87 is projected to be \$ 1,014,688. The budget for the period of July 1, 1986 through February 28, 1987 (eight months) is \$804,688 (\$734,821 for Program Funds and \$69,867 for Administration). It is projected that \$140,000 will remain unspent at the end of February. The projected cost of extending the Program for the period of March 1, 1987 through June 30, 1987 is \$350,000. Consequently an additional \$210,000 will be needed to complete the fiscal year.

# COST EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION

In determining cost effectiveness two different calculations are necessary. The following chart details the projected savings in General Relief that are the result of participant noncompliance. Sanctions are applied each time a participant fails (without good cause) to comply with program participation requirements. Each failure results in a loss of one fourth of the following month's benefits. Data has been collected from each County Office of Human Services for the period of October, November, and December 1986 listing the number of sanctions that have been applied against "Project Work" participants. The total projected savings from sanctions for FY87 total \$678,744.

## BENEFIT SAVINGS DUE TO SANCTIONS:

Report Period: 3 months (October, November, and December 1986)

Component	sanctions applied	(1) average benefits	monthly savings	(2) longevity	projected savings
<u>Workfare</u>					
1/4	44	216	9,504	1	\$ 9,504
1/2	22	216	4,752	1	4,752
3/4	8	216	1,728	1	1,728
full	104	216	22,464	2	44,928
<u>Phases I &amp; II</u>					
1/4	16	216	3,456	1	3,456
1/2	4	216	864	1	864
3/4	3	216	648	1	648
full	242	216	52,272	2	104,544
<u>Phase III</u>					
1/4	18	216	3,888	1	3,888
1/2	11	216	2,376	1	2,376
3/4	10	216	2,160	1	2,160
full	29	216	6,264	1	6,264
TOTAL 2ND QUARTER SAVINGS					\$ 185,112
Average monthly savings					\$ 61,704
Months of projected savings (3)					11
TOTAL PROJECTED SAVINGS FROM SANCTIONS FOR FY 87					\$ 678,744

## ASSUMPTIONS:

- (1) Average payments per case remained at \$216 per month throughout the time period.
- (2) Participants that were sanctioned for full benefits in Workfare and Phases I & II would have received an additional 2 months of assistance if they had not been sanctioned. All other participants that were sanctioned continued to receive full benefits after their partial sanctions were applied.
- (3) Benefits are received by recipients at the beginning of the month. Sanctions for noncompliance are applied the following month. Consequently there could be no sanctions for the month of July

resulting in only 11 months of benefit savings for FY87. It is assumed that savings will continue at the same rate for the remainder of FY87.

The second set of calculations describes the benefit reductions that are realized as a result of recipient participation in "Project Work". These calculations utilize the computer tracking system of the Department of Labor and Industry. Each month House Bill 12 service providers provide data detailing placement figures and other participant demographics. One of the reports that is generated (GAR 100) describes the number of job placements and also the number of participants that are terminated from Project Work. The following chart has been prepared from this report. GAR 100 indicates that a total of 261 participants have been placed in jobs and 274 other participants have been terminated from "Project Work" for non job placement reasons (Program noncompliance terminations are not included). It is assumed that terminated participants would have received two additional months of assistance if they had not participated in HB-12. The average monthly benefit payment is \$216 per month. Consequently it is projected that benefits reductions from participation in "Project Work" would total \$462,240 for FY87.

PROJECT WORK TRACKING DATA:

Report Period: 6 months (July through December, 1986)  
 Able Bodied Recipients Only

Enrollment Counts	Total Terminations	Placement Counts(1)	Non Placement Terminations (2)			
			training	ineligible	move	other
1947	535	261	42	125	44	63

Average payment per case (3)	\$ 216
Total Terminations	535
	<u>\$115,560</u>
Months of benefit savings per terminated case (4)	2
Benefit Reductions	<u>\$231,120</u>
Actual Months in operation	6
	<u>38,520</u>
Projected months of operation in FY87	12
Projected FY87 reductions	<u>\$462,240</u>

ASSUMPTIONS:

- (1) All job placements were a result of participation in House Bill 12.
- (2) Non placement termination counts due to infirmity redeterminations, transfers to other Public Assistance, and exclusions due to remoteness were not included because the terminations were either not directly attributable to HB-12 or receipt of General Relief Assistance continued.
- (3) Average payments per case remained at \$216 per month throughout the time period.
- (4) Participants would have received an additional 2 months of assistance if they had not participated in HB-12.

Benefit reductions as described above total \$1,140,984. The FY87 budget for "Project Work" is \$1,014,688. Thus there is a General Fund Savings of \$126,296.

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PROGRAM SAVINGS:

Projected FY87 sanction savings	\$ 678,744
Projected FY87 placement/termination savings	462,240
Total Projected Benefit reductions FY87	\$1,140,984
Projected expenditures	1,014,688
* GENERAL FUND SAVINGS	\$ 126,296

- \* These savings reflect 12 months of expenditures and 11 months of program savings. Thus the General Fund Savings is understated by \$61,704. This savings would be realized in subsequent years of operation of Project Work.

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PROJECTED PROGRAM SAVINGS FOR FY88:

Projected FY87 sanction savings for 12 months	\$ 740,448
Projected FY87 placement/termination savings for 12 months	462,240
Total Projected Benefit Reductions	1,202,688
Projected Expenditures	1,014,688
GENERAL FUND SAVINGS FOR FY88	\$ 188,000

SUMMARY

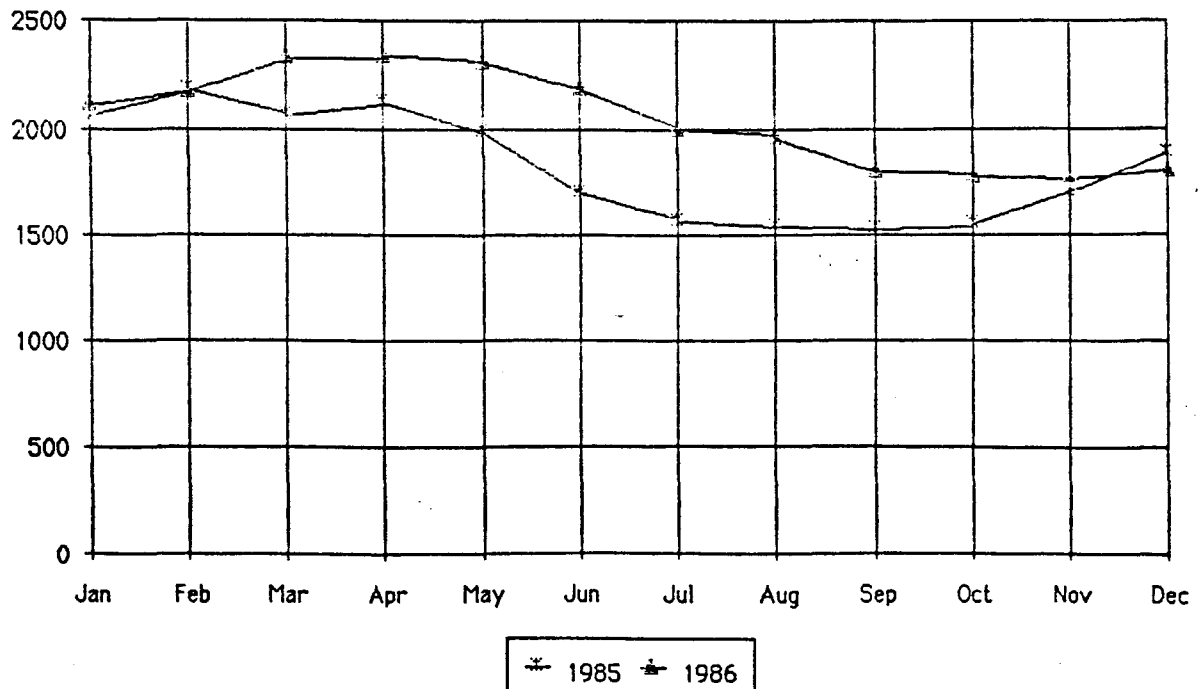
Project Work has placed 261 individuals into jobs. Approximately 775 people have received job readiness training. This training has not only enhanced their skills in obtaining employment but has also provided them with motivational counseling.

Project Work is projected to have a savings of \$126,296 for FY87 and \$188,000 for FY88.

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**GENERAL RELIEF CASELOAD COMPARISON  
1985 TO 1986**

CASES



26 January 1987

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee  
Montana State Legislature, by Marie Christopher

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: For the record, my name is MARIE CHRISTOPHER, Staff member of the BUTTE COMMUNITY UNION.

My testimony today is for the purpose of demonstrating my previous personal need for state assistance and the obligation for the continuance of that type of help for other people temporarily in the need of assistance.

I first visited Montana in the mid-1950's when I came with my parents to see the farm where my mother grew up. Even as a child of ten, I was aware of the magnificent, unspoiled beauty of this state. At that time I began hearing stories from my mother about her childhood on their farm near Dixon. These stories often revolved around Montanans helping Montanans, such as the time my grandmother's farmhouse burned to the ground shortly after the death of my grandfather. Their friends and neighbors took my Grandmother, her sister, and her three children in and gave them shelter. At this point, let me mention that my grandparents were not native Montanans, but had come here from North Dakota in 1909 and homesteaded on 160 acres of great Montana farmland. Montanans have a history of helping each other in times of need. This tradition must continue if we are to have a strong and dynamic future.

When I first moved to Montana in January 1985, I brought with me enthusiasm for my new home, a good education, good job skills and extensive work experience. In spite of these attributes, by the time my savings ran out, I still had not found employment. On October 1, 1985, I received my first General Relief (GR) check. Three months and twenty days later I started work at the Butte Community Union managing the office. My salary was \$12,000 per year, soon raised

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to \$13,200 per year. Five months later I began purchasing my house. By my reckoning, in about six more months I will have paid back to the State of Montana -- through state and property taxes -- the entire \$848.00 I received in GR benefits.

My reaping the harvest of General Relief benefits totaling \$212.00 a month did not come about because I had an overwhelming desire for masochism. As a fairly new arrival to the region, I was virtually without friends to turn to for assistance. My only financially secure relative was then living in a convalescent hospital in a suburb of Los Angeles, comatose from advanced Alzheimer's Disease. There was really no place else to turn.

Other people need the kind of help I got. Many will continue on to become productive and beneficial citizens of our state. We need those individuals, and we need to help them to ultimately help us. With enough money to pay the rent, food stamps enough to keep the wolf from the door, and education -- perhaps the educational benefits and opportunities provided through HB-12 -- these poor and destitute people will gain the chance to be what we all seem to admire so much: hard-working, diligent, employed tax payers of the State of Montana.

I urge, no, beg, you to consider the resources that impoverished people can provide -- if they are given a chance. "POOR" just means lacking in financial solvency, it does not mean lacking in ability, integrity, or desire for personal progress.

Thank you for your consideration

MARIE CHRISTOPHER

132-C W. WOOLMAN

BUTTE MT 59701

Telephone: 406/723-4819

26 January 1987

PROJECT WORK PROGRAM  
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
JULY 1986 THRU JANUARY 1987

Project Work is a multi-agency (Helena Job Service, Career Training Institute, Rocky Mountain Development Council, Adult Learning Center, Helena Industries, Human Services Office, Lewis and Clark County) employment training and search program.

A. CLIENT PROFILE

- 189 able-bodied General Relief recipients enrolled in PWP between July 1986 and January 1987. (324 GR recipients referred from Human Services)
- average age: 33 years (range from 19 to 62)
- gender: 82% male 18% female
- education: 27% drop out, 57% high school graduate/GED, 17% some college
- work history: from unskilled, spot jobs to college instructors and bank accountants
- state residence: 9% 1-90 days, 11% 3-12 months, 20% 2-5 years, 16% 6-10 years, 44% 11 or more years (80% 2 or more years)
- average months unemployed: 19 (chronic unemployment)
- victim of child abuse: 80% (physical, psychological, sexual, adult children of alcoholics)
- education competency: 8.7 grade level
- alcoholism: 70% (at various stages)
- self-esteem and world view: very low self-esteem, fatalism, low risk taking, frustration, resignation
- aspirations: middle-class (value a home, family, independence, decent life-style, meaningful employment)

B. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Phase I and II: 65 clients (extensive evaluation, job seeking skills and motivation training)



EXHIBIT

DATE

NO

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B. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (Continued)

- Phase III: 48 clients (individualized curriculum of supervised job search, workfare and employment training)
  - 43 clients in adult continuing education (GED, clerical brush-up, computer)
  - 13 clients in adult basic education (remedial)
  - 6 clients in mental health counseling
  - 11 clients in alcohol treatment/counseling (in-patient and out-patient)
- Workfare: 4840 hours of community service
- Program Philosophy: recognize the integrity and potential, and encourage the sovereignty and growth of each client

C. PROGRAM TERMINATION

- infirm/3-mile limit: 27-18% (SSI eligibility)
- vocational training: 15-10% (JTPA, Vo-Tech, Vocational-Rehabilitation)
- employment: 32-22% (confirmed and non-confirmed)
  - average wage: \$4.16
  - medical benefits: 27%
  - 90 day retention rate: 50%
- other: 73-50% (move, non-PWP violation, unknown)
- self-esteem and world view: optimism, self-confidence, higher self-esteem

"Project Work may not be able to create jobs for its clients, but it can create clients for jobs."

## YOUR TURN

Who are the welfare "able-bodied?" This was the question I began asking myself last July. I had been hired by Lewis and Clark County to coordinate a new multi-agency job training and search program known as Project Work. All of the county's "able-bodied" General Relief recipients are referred to the program and under go an intensive evaluation, counseling, training and work experience process to help prepare them for employment. Individualized to meet specific client needs, participants may be in the program up to seven months. Thus far, of the 132 clients enrolled, 28 have gained jobs.

In order to become a more responsive program, one of my first tasks was to gain an understanding of those who the program serves. Equipped with the tools of anthropology and with a vast inventory of client evaluation results, I launched into my study. What I found was most unexpected and frankly, most distressing.

At first glance, it was difficult to identify a singu-

**Of the Project Work "able-bodied," close to 75 percent are at some stage of alcohol dependency, whether it be psychological or physical addiction.**

lar, distinct group of welfare "able-bodied." Formal education varies from school drop outs, comprising some 27 percent of the population, to college educated at 17 percent, with a very high percentage, 57 percent high school graduates. Many have work histories involving unskilled, spot jobs, while some were college instructors, bank accountants and computer programmers. The "able-bodied" range in age from 19 to 62, with 33 years an average. While women are represented among the "able-bodied" over 70 percent are men. Other public assistance such as Aid to Families with Depend-



Rodney Frey is coordinator of the Project Work Program for Lewis and Clark County. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and taught at the University of Colorado, Montana and Carroll College.

## Looking for the welfare 'able-bodied'

average unemployed for 19 months. This state of chronic unemployment is often symptomatic of other deeply embedded barriers preventing employment. Such barriers are often associated with alcoholism, child abuse, illiteracy, lack of vocational as well as social skills and low self-esteem.

Of the Project Work "able-bodied," close to 75 percent are at some stage of alcohol dependency,

**Virtually every Project Work client is the victim of child abuse — physical, psychological or sexual.**

whether it be psychological or physical addiction. Many have lost and continue to lose jobs as well as friends and family because of the addiction. Despite the fact that a high percentage of "able-bodied" have received a high school education, the combined average grade level competency as scored on the Test of Adult Basic Education is only 8.7. Remove from consideration those with some college experience and the average grade level competency is 7.7. It is difficult to maintain employment if an individual can function no better than someone barely out of elementary school. Virtually every Project Work client is the victim of child abuse — physical, psychological or sexual. In one training class, every student without exception was raised by an alcoholic parent. The child abuse scars run deep and continue to haunt and hinder the "able-bodied" from obtaining their dreams.

Perhaps the most difficult barrier the "able-bodied" face is their low self-esteem. They lack a confidence in themselves and what they can accomplish. To lessen the tremendous frustration created by having middle-class aspirations yet lacking the means to even partially obtain them, many "able-bodied" cope by lowering their expectations, resigning themselves to their fate and viewing the world

rather fatalistically. High risk situations, situations that might end in failure, are seldom attempted for fear of adding another failure to a long list of failed endeavors. Adult basic education classes, alcohol treatment, mental health counseling and even a job interview are situations often viewed with a certain degree of reluctance. Thus the low self-esteem and apathy of the "able-bodied" are both a consequence of their impoverished economic and social circumstances as well as a strategy for dealing with it. But while the apathy may help cope with the discrepancy between aspirations and means, this strategy most assuredly also contributes to "able-bodied" unemployment.

The welfare "able-bodied" find themselves a disenfranchised population, isolated from family, friends and neighbors, lacking involvement in civic, church and political organizations, often living in sub-standard housing, afflicted by poor diets and health, and stigmatized by society as incompetent and inferior for receiving the meager public assistance they do. Most General Relief recipients subsist on a monthly grant of \$212 and some \$60 worth of food stamps.

Who then are the welfare "able-bodied?" As it is defined, "able-bodied" are those "not infirm," those who with a "little coaching" are "job ready." Certainly some referred to Project Work are indeed "able-bodied," and it is hoped that many more upon completion of their counseling and training can be considered "able-bodied." But the vast majority of the "able-bodied" that I am familiar with are among Montana's most needy. The barriers preventing their social and economic integration into our community are multiple and deep seated, requiring long-term, coordinated effort by state, local, private and public agency expertise to overcome.

Who are the welfare "able-bodied?" Are those in my study, all designated as "able-bodied," truly "able-bodied?" For my part, I'm still trying to locate the welfare "able-bodied."

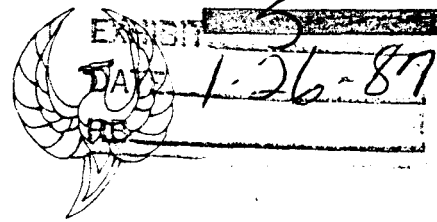
Wednesday,  
November 26, 1986-4A

# OPINIONS & IMPRESSIONS

26-87

# WOMEN'S LOBBYIST FUND

Box 1099  
Helena, MT 59624  
449-7917



1/26/1987

Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services

Chairman Winslow and members of the Committee:

My name is Diane Sands and I am speaking on behalf of the 39 member organizations of the Women's Lobbyist Fund. We are here in support of funding for General Assistance. Our commitment to GA is grounded in the Montana Constitution's commitment to social and economic justice for all Montana's citizens. That commitment must be affirmed, especially in the difficult economic times we find ourselves in and the resulting political pressures to pass that responsibility for justice off on someone else. The language of the Constitution is the language of a social compact between the people of Montana to provide for the basic necessities of life; a guarantee of social and economic justice.

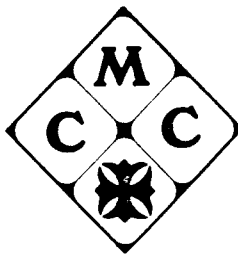
General Assistance has made a critical difference in the survival of Montana citizens, including a significant number of women (approximately 20%). There are several categories of women who benefit from GA and I would briefly like to review these situations for you.

1) GA has enabled women who have benefited from the far sighted and compassionate legislation you have passed to provide ways out of abusive family situations or into displaced homemaker programs. These women rely on GA to put a safe roof over their heads. These women tend to stay on GA longer as they are often older women, lacking in job skills and often effected by age discrimination in the work force. Without question the result of reductions in GA would be the increased return of these women to abusive situations because they have no other way to obtain that necessity of life, shelter.

2) A second group of women on GA are women in the first and second trimesters of pregnancy and without economic resources. As you know, changes in eligibility requirements under President Reagan do not allow pregnant women the benefits of AFDC until the third trimester of pregnancy. Pregnant women need GA for shelter.

3) Finally, GA provides safety and shelter to younger women whose other options include life on the streets or unwanted pregnancies. As one 34 year old woman on GA told me, "Without GA I'd return to the streets, no question. Probably prostitution. You have to do what you have to do to survive". Another woman told me that she "could always get pregnant and go on AFDC". Clearly these are not positive options for women and their families.

Individual women will be testifying today about the circumstances in their lives that have resulted in their being on GA and the impact of the current job training programs on their options for becoming selfsufficient. We appreciate your willingness to see these women's faces as the face of General Assistance. As women increasingly constitute the majority of the poor in this state we need to affirm the importance of GA, AFDC and other benefit programs as the guarantee of social and economic justice for women and their families.



# Montana Catholic Conference

EXHIBIT 6

FILE 1-26-87

January 26, 1987

I am John Ortwein representing the Montana Catholic Conference. The Catholic Conference serves as the liaison between the two Catholic Bishops of the State of Montana in matters of public policy.

The responsibility for alleviating the plight of the poor falls on all members of society. As individuals, all citizens have a duty to assist the poor through acts of charity and personal commitment. But private charity and voluntary action are not sufficient. We also carry out our moral responsibility to assist and empower the poor by working collectively through government to establish just and effective policies.

For many Montanans the only economic safety net is the welfare system. We feel that the the welfare system should serve the needs of those in need that both respects their dignity and provides adequate support.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

found myself  
into a job and  
on welfare

PWP - Morning Session

EXHIBIT 7  
DATE 1-26-87

Training, resumes, interviews, dress, manner

Thankyou note - pounding the pavement

Researched info, found funding for  
training in Minneapolis

Career Training Institute - Afternoon Session

Objections

CTI is a religious organization (funded by Dept. of  
Labor + Industry from

1. Govt. funding of religion

\* violation - Seperation of  
Church and State

fed. J.T.P.A. and  
Montana House Bill 7

(Indep. record

Nov. 12, 86

Sec. 3C Col

2. Mandnatory attendance

Letters dating July 86  
and August 14, 1986

reduce or  
eliminate General  
relief assistance

\* violation - freedom of religion

~~Taught~~ and Practiced in Class

1. Holistic healing

mind - soul - body - spirit

2. God is a greater power that exists as a creat  
life force.

3. Psycospiritual therapy dealing with  
mind/spirit

4. Dream therapy

6. Affirmations (repeating of statements over & over so that  
they can take root in the mind)

7. ~~Danna Porter related a ream taught~~ reincarnation

8. imagery/visualization (creating a mental picture in your  
mind so strong that it becomes

591604-901

DATE 1-26-87

Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Lydia J. Lindberg, I live at 308 Parkdale, Great Falls. I have two children, and am a recipient of AFDC. I receive \$354.00 monthly, which I understand is 47% of the poverty level. Because of the subsidized rent where I live, I am able to live from month to month. The market value for my apartment is over \$300.00. Therefore it puzzles me how others receiving assistance, who pay rent and utilities manage to survive!

However, if AFDC is lowered to 41% of poverty no one receiving assistance will be able to make it through the month!

Every month I work out a budget down to the last cent. If my children need new shoes or clothes, the only way I can afford them is to either buy second hand, or very cheap quality. Consequently, my children suffer for our situation. I feel this is unfair! Why balance the budget by making our children suffer?

We need our benefits raised, not lowered! More incentives will get mothers such as myself off assistance. Cut as down farther, and we have nowhere to go but down!

Sincerely,

Lydia J. Lindberg

I authorize Sister Johnelle Howanah to read this statement

EXHIBIT  
DATE 1-26-87  
HB

As an AFDC recipient, I would like to express my concern to the consideration of cutting AFDC benefits.

I am a 27 year old divorced mother of two ages six and three.

I have had little work experience before I was married, so the job market would be minimal for me if my benefits were cut or completely terminated.

At this time, I receive \$354.00 from AFDC, \$155.00 in food stamp and medicaid insurance. I cannot afford to have these benefits cut even \$1.00. As it is now, this money does not get me through the month. I pay \$180.00 a month for rent and approximately \$100.00 per month for utilities. This means there is \$74.00 for the rest of the month for toilet tissue, soap, bills, cat food, and God help us if one of the children should need a new pair of shoes, or a dress for a special occasion. It is not easy to survive with this funding, but I have learned and my children have learned that we can't afford to go see a Saturday afternoon matinee, we can't go to McDonalds for a Big Mac, we can't go roller skating.

If I were to work outside the home, I would have to make one heck of a lot of



money, which is almost impossible, as I have had little work experience before I got married. If I were to work, my medicaid insurance would be cut. I have a three year old son with asthma. I don't think, as a single, working mother, I could ever afford to pay the medical bills, even if I were lucky enough to land a job WITH INSURANCE!

I would have to bring home at least \$725.<sup>00</sup> <sup>monthly</sup> SUST for babysitting costs for 2 children, car-pool fees, since I don't own a car, rent, food, and utilities. On top of that, I would have to earn even more if I were to buy my children clothes or shoes, or what if my kids were to become ill and end up in the hospital? How would I buy my children a birthday present? I would have to <sup>bring home</sup> ~~earn~~ at least 900.<sup>00</sup> per month, just to live. With the little work experience I have, it is almost impossible for me to land that kind of a job. But I look every day in hopes of getting off welfare. Most people are hoping to get off welfare. The jobs are just not there. But, to have the funds we do have, to be cut, <sup>would be</sup> ~~would be~~ ~~very~~ detrimental to many people in this state. I ~~am~~ beg of you to please reconsider these cuts. Thank You

EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 1-26-87  
HB                     

T E S T I M O N Y

R.L. "Pinky" Nelson  
P.O. Box 313  
Belt, MT. 59412  
Ph 277-9956 (Message)

A good share of the people now receiving General Assistance are doing so as a direct result of this State's ~~anti-business~~ economic policies. Now, there is an effort by the powers-that-be to deny them the basic needs of life.

This negative economic business climate *AS IS INDICATED BY THE RECENT CANCELLATION OF THE "BULL MIT." PROGRAM* is being compounded by "BULL MIT." over-restrictive, discriminatory and arbitrarily-applied rules directed to the victims of those business policies, a "Catch 22" situation if there ever was one.

The application of printed rules and regulations mixed with arbitrary definitions of inferred policies appears to be on a case by case basis.

While the United States Government recognizes that there are expenses necessary to pay prior to having a profit or net-income, the most recent definition of the word 'income' that I have received from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services rules that income is all monies received - before business expenses are deducted or paid! I concede however that my E.T. has not, as yet produced a copy of the ruling which causes me to believe that it is an arbitrary definition

EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 1-26-87  
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or ruling.

Additionally, since we are led to believe that the County staff are well trained and qualified to make certain judgements, why is there no flexibility to application of those rules and regulations that they are assigned to administer? The "Workfare" Program is one case in point. In order to qualify for \$212. per month it would be necessary for me to spend eight days and \$46.80 in busfare to serve thirty-two hours of community-benefit time in Great Falls. I have no disagreement with the program as it is presented but, I do question the wisdom of insisting that I must serve my time only at the worksite designated at the county seat. Believe me, my little home-town of Belt would appreciate some help.

While farmers and ranchers in the State claim many thousands of dollars in aid with the help and support of State Agencies, there is a trend to deny the working class the necessary means of sustaining a decent lifestyle. The rural businessman holds his head high as he drives his late model pick-up to the bank while the person caught in the grip of this present economic squeeze is often belittled and commands no respect. Rodney Dangerfield should come to Montana for some of his material.

Many people have been put out of work due not to their own lack of skills or poor work habits. I feel that a realistic program of assistance designed for their situation or condition is the answer. Hide-bound rules chiseled in concrete and administered by un-caring, sometimes egotistical case workers is self-perpetuating - no one but

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HB                     

the case worker is getting ahead.

The General Assistance Program should be responsive to the needs of those who find themselves in need of help as well as to the needs of the government! I further believe that the state of Montana, as a whole would rather have everyone working who will or can work. I also feel that when a negative, hopeless attitude is prevalent in the work force, the state's economic reputation is damaged.

Help people when they need help, restrict help when a person won't try to help themselves but, don't classify all people asking for help with those who won't help. Many don't know what else to do while they re-align their lives and lifestyles.

EXHIBIT

DATE

1-26-87

HB

Jobs James Todd - Sand Coulee  
All my life in Mont except  
for 4 years - Navy - Korea  
15 Years Warehouse & Const.  
7 Years Billings - Own Business  
Lived on savings for 3 years <sup>2nd wife died</sup>  
rather than go on welfare  
But with Economy bad & no  
work available & working man  
still has to eat and have the  
bare necessities to survive and  
still keep his dignity and self  
respect. What we get from  
G.A. we need and deserve. We are  
not getting a hand out we work  
for our G.A. and do our community  
& service. I work my 5 days  
workweek plus many other days just  
to keep from being idle I don't  
receive a cent for this extra work  
it is just something to do. When  
you are up to working you just  
can't stop. Thank you for your time

Montana  
Association of  
Churches

EXHIBIT 12

DATE 1-26-87

HB 100

MONTANA RELIGIOUS LEGISLATIVE COALITION • P.O. Box 745 • Helena, MT 59624

January 26, 1987

WORKING TOGETHER:

American Baptist Churches  
of the Northwest

American Lutheran Church  
Rocky Mountain District

Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
in Montana

Episcopal Church  
Diocese of Montana

Lutheran Church  
in America  
Pacific Northwest Synod

Roman Catholic Diocese  
of Great Falls-Billings

Roman Catholic Diocese  
of Helena

United Church  
of Christ  
MT-N.WY Conference

United Methodist Church  
Yellowstone Conference

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Glacier Presbytery

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Yellowstone Presbytery

Testimony before sub-committee of Appropriations on  
Human Services:

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Mignon  
Waterman of Helena and I represent the Montana  
Association of Churches.

I am testifying to show our concern for those who  
are the most needy, those who in this time of  
unemployment have to turn to the safety net of General  
Assistance.

As legislators, you face difficult choices in this  
legislative session but for those Montanans who find  
themselves without jobs, food, and medical care, they  
have no choice but to turn to the State of Montana  
for assistance.

The Montana Association of Churches supports the funding  
of social services so as "to provide the necessities  
of life compatible with decency and health."

*We laud the job training program  
and urge expansion of the Project  
Work program.*

*Mignon Waterman*

VERN SANDERS

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

*9771 Chairman of committee*

I have lived in Great Falls and paid taxes for ~~2~~ years, I have worked at the Smelter. I also have owned my own business for 5 years. *30* *4 years Navy time*

Since the Smelter closed down the job market in the Great Falls area has been very bad. I moved to California to find work, but I didn't find anything steady there either. I ~~#~~ did not like living there, besides all my family and friends are living in Great Falls. Since my return to Great Falls I've worked a few spot jobs, but haven't found anything steady.

I do not have any desire to live on General Assistance for the rest of my life. Since the job market in this area is so bad, I need General Assistance to survive until I find a job.

If General Assistance were cut I and many others wouldn't have any place to go. ~~#~~ I/We don't have the money or desire to move to another state. My family and friends are having a rough enough time of it and are trying to raise and support their families as it is. They don't need to try to help me make it through.

The value of Workfare hours contributed to worksites in Cascade County has provided services that would not otherwise be served due to budget cuts in the public sector and has allowed many ~~###~~ non-profit Agencies to expand their programs with the additional help from the Workfare Workers

Currently I'm working with the Concerned Citizens Coalition to put together a business to do maintenance work, but it will take until July, at least, to get it off the ground.

*I'm going back to school  
for my H.E.D.*

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES  
Economic Assistance Division

EXHIBIT

DATE

HE

AFDC  
(Basic Eligibility)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children is an economic assistance program designed to provide financial and medical assistance to families unable to meet the basic needs of their minor children. The program was established for the purpose of providing support to dependent children.

Eligibility is determined by various criteria established by Federal regulations. Some of these criteria are:

1. Having at least one child, living with a parent or someone related by blood who is under the age of 18, or 19 if a full-time student who will graduate by the 19th birthday;
2. The child must be deprived of parental support, must be a U.S. Citizen, and must apply for AFDC in the county in which he/she resides;
3. The child must submit or apply for a Social Security Number;
4. Rights to any Child Support payments must be assigned to the state; and
5. The family must meet established income and resource limits.

Resources - includes all the liquid and non-liquid assets the client legally possesses

- Limitation is \$1,000
- Excluded Assets include:
  - The homestead
  - One car valued at \$1,500 current market value or less
  - Household furnishing and personal effects
  - \$1,500 designated for burial costs for each family member.

Income - AFDC has three income tests established by Federal regulations, federal poverty index and available state funds. These standards are set according to household size and whether or not the client has a shelter obligation.

- a. The Gross Monthly Income (GMI) Standard
- b. Net Monthly Income (NMI) Standard
- c. Benefit Standard

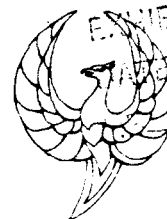
The client's income will be tested against each one of these standards. If it exceeds any one of these tests the family is ineligible for AFDC.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>GMI</u>	<u>NMI</u>	<u>Benefit Standard</u>
1	\$ 474	\$ 256	\$ 212
2	631	341	282
3	792	428	354
4	951	514	426



# WOMEN'S LOBBYIST FUND

Box 1099  
Helena, MT 59624  
449-7917



Testimony for Human Services Subcommittee, Jan. 26, 1987 by Barbara Archer, WLF

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,  
My name is Barbara Archer and I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Lobbyist Fund.

We want you to know that the Women's Lobbyist Fund understands the dilemma that the state is in economically and that we appreciate the difficulty of the tasks before you. We are willing to do whatever we can to assist you through the economic crisis.

There are many women in this state affected by the same macroeconomic forces that we face as a whole. They have the same limits to stretching resources, limits which may or may not allow them to survive.

The Women's Lobbyist Fund has some particular biases in regard to how we survive economic crisis. That is, we believe that the worse things are the more we need to pull together. There are no expendable people.

Based on this belief we request that AFDC be funded at 50% of poverty level. When the appropriate bills are presented we will also be support the proposal in the Governor's budget that there be a sliding scale <sup>child care</sup> for AFDC to provide transitional services which will enable women to become tax-paying citizens themselves and we will request that child care payments be raised from \$8. to the going rate of \$10. which will enable AFDC parents to find child care providers. We also want to request that the state examine innovative programs that have come out of other states such as Mass. and Calif. in response to similar problems as ours.

A priest in a neighboring state likened our condition to that of people caught in a leaky boat. He said, (In difficult times) "there are no good guys or bad guys. As we look to the right and to the left we do not see different colors or different classes (or I might add, Democrats or Republicans). All we see are the faces of men and women, some people rowing and some people bailing, for there are children in this lousy boat and we are in deep trouble.

Director: Deborah Kimmet  
Night Supervisor: Sue Vrona  
Community Outreach: Juanita N. Triplett  
VISTA Worker: Dawn Williamson



YWCA - 1130 W. BROADWAY  
MISSOULA, MT 59802

Office                      Crisis  
543-6691    or    543-8277

November 7, 1986

MEMO

TO: Diane Sands, Issues Vice President  
Women's Lobbyist Fund

FROM: Deb Kimmet, Director  
YWCA Battered Women's Shelter *SK*

RE: The affect of proposed AFDC budget cuts on battered women

Domestic violence, much like sexual assault, is an issue of power and control. The perpetrator uses any means, including financial restrictions, to dominate and control the victim. She has no access to the funds, or if she does, this money is earmarked to meet the family budget: not enough to flee and set up a new household. She feels an obligation to meet his needs first - or be beaten again.

Many women end up at the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter because they have no where else to go. Family and friends are not supportive, and because she has no money, she can't afford to stay elsewhere. These women are frightened and are ready to return to their situations -to risk eventual death- in order to provide the basic necessities for them and their children. Currently, the Shelter is able to refer these women to Human Services to apply for AFDC benefits. Most of the women qualify for this aid, and Missoula County is especially helpful in expediting those cases concerning women in residence at the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter. Yet, inadequacies do exist in the system. Qualification requirements are not necessarily sympathetic to battered women and children, but, AFDC is an option to these women. This aid provides hope for women who feel that they cannot leave their situations due to economic constraints. By removing this obstacle, women are more willing and able to leave.

Should AFDC benefits be cut, it could have a devastating affect on battered women. First, an economic barrier would be placed in the way of escape. Women could become economically "chained" to their batterers. Shelters could become more crowded as women temporarily leave their situations to escape extremely violent episodes, then return home because they have no other alternatives. The cycle of abuse would continue to repeat again and again. Law enforcement officers would be repeatedly called to intervene. The officers would then become frustrated and would have a tendency to blame the woman because she doesn't leave. Yet, she can't: she has no where else to go. The longer she stays in the battering relationship, the more severe the beatings. Therefore, hospital

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emergency rooms would treat more acutely battered women. And, eventually, more people will die. She feels trapped and helpless. To escape, she'll kill the batterer or commit suicide. Or, he'll kill her. The cycle of abuse ends in death and one avenue of escape has been closed to her. Therefore, proposed AFDC cuts will only place the economic burden elsewhere: on domestic violence programs, hospitals, law enforcement officers and the rest of the criminal justice system and Child Protective Services, to name a few.

I highly recommend the continuation of the AFDC program at present or increased levels in order to help serve the needs of battered women in the state of Montana. Otherwise, it may be discovered that such proposed cuts are a short-sighted solution in the distribution of funds to those in need in the state: that cuts in one area may place an undue burden in other areas.

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My name is Janie Sullivan. I live at 305A Craighead, Missoula, MT. I am an AFDC recipient. I have been on and off the welfare system for the last 10 years. This past year I have been working with a new program in Missoula called Options Unlimited.

This is a peer support group of AFDC recipients who are trying to discover ways of breaking the cycle of poverty permanently. We are exploring career options and education as a means to leave the welfare system behind and become self-supporting, tax-paying citizens of Montana.

Some of us have chosen vocational education programs and some of us are trying to get through a university program. I will graduate from the University of Montana in June with a BA in Journalism.

Over the past year, I have talked to over 50 people in the Missoula area who are trying to get off the welfare system permanently. Of the 850 current AFDC cases in Missoula, over 40 recipients are enrolled in higher education programs, either vocational or university.

Many more AFDC recipients contact Options Unlimited each week with questions about breaking their personal cycles of poverty. It is imperative that the State of Montana provides adequate welfare benefits for these highly motivated people who are caught in the poverty cycle.

I have been in many homes where sundries, warm clothing and cleaning supplies are not being purchased because the welfare recipient cannot afford them after paying rent for what is often sub-standard housing.

I am here today to encourage the members of this committee to raise the current AFDC benefit from 45<sup>percent</sup> of poverty to at least 50 percent to allow recipients to purchase the necessities for their families while they are struggling to break the cycle of poverty.

*Thank-you, Janie Sullivan*

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1-26-87

Mr. Chairman, Committee members;

My name is Marie Schreiber. I have 6 people in my household. Myself another adult and 4 children. I would like to give you a brief rundown about my situation.

We receive \$513<sup>00</sup> per month A.F.D.C. - U.P. benefits. My bills for this month totaled \$408<sup>00</sup> That left me with \$105<sup>00</sup> to buy everyday necessities that foodstamps won't buy, shoes or clothes that the children or I need, gas for my car, etc. It does not last for even 2 weeks.

I also receive \$220<sup>00</sup> in food stamps per month. I buy all my groceries at the beginning of each month. I'm frugal. I use coupons, I shop around for sales (since they are not always in the paper I end up using gas) this usually saves me \$20-\$25 per month which pays my milk bill. I pay that at the beginning of the month so I know my children will have it all month long (My 2 youngest are not eligible for W.I.K. because they are considered to be too healthy.)

My groceries last about 3 weeks. The last week of the month we live on Milk & Cheese. During the winter we have Venison, Milk & Cheese, until the first rolls around.

I was looking forward to going to college this past fall. I couldn't afford to lose my car or the house I'm in. The same goes for a job although the jobs I've experienced at will not

EXHIBIT

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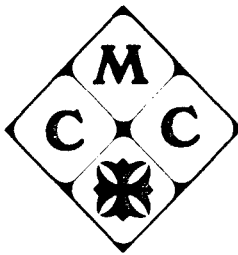
HB

18

1-26-87

pay me the \$1100<sup>00</sup> per month after taxes w/medical benefits it would take to get off assistance without losing my car & house.

Lowering my benefits is not an incentive to be off assistance if that's what you are looking for. Most people in regular jobs have all kinds of incentives for advancement. Would these people advance if they knew it meant losing a vital part of everyday life (such as a car or house) without much hope of getting it back? To my knowledge I don't know anyone that would. Why does a person have to be penalized to progress?



# Montana Catholic Conference

January 26, 1987

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DATE

HB

19  
1-26-87

I am John Ortwein representing the Montana Catholic Conference. The Catholic Conference serves as the liaison between the two Roman Catholic Bishops of Montana in the matters of public policy.

In the recently released Pastoral Letter on the Economy entitled: Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, the Bishops state that welfare programs should provide recipients with adequate levels of support. This support should cover basic needs in food, clothing shelter, health care and other essentials. A study from the Congressional Research Service entitled: Children in Poverty, gives very important information. It states that only four percent of poor families with children receive enough cash welfare benefits to lift them out of poverty. A report from the Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives which was dated February 22, 1985, gave the following information: The combined benefits of AFDC and food stamps typically come to less than three-fourths of the official poverty level.

As you deliberate today, I would hope that a reduction in AFDC payments will be considered very carefully. Those receiving public assistance should not face the prospect of hunger at the end of the month, homelessness, sending children to school in ragged clothing, or inadequate medical care.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

My name is Michael Kaplan.  
I ~~have~~ am 28 years old & have 2 sons  
4 & 6 years old. I am trying to get out  
from under the cycle of poverty by  
attending the University of Montana.  
I receive \$354 in AFDC benefits.  
My rent is \$210/mo. My power bill  
was \$94. I pay \$30 a month on bus passes  
for myself & my 6 year old son. I pay \$20  
for paper products & soap. That comes to  
exactly \$354/month. I cannot afford a  
phone or a car the buses don't run at night  
or the weekends. I ride 3 different buses  
twice a day to take my son to head  
start daycare & get to school & back. I get  
myself & my sons up at 5:30 AM. to do this.  
I have a difficult time getting clothes  
for my sons. The second hand stores  
do not have clothes for young boys because  
they are worn out before they grow out of them.  
New clothes at K-Mart are too expensive.  
I got married ~~young~~ after I graduated  
high school & lived on a cattle ranch  
50 miles from town. I am now in the  
divorce process. While I was married I  
did not have the opportunity to get any  
work experience. Getting a college education  
I can eventually get off the Welfare system  
get a good job & pay taxes to help support  
the system. Without the AFDC benefits I  
would not be able to do this. I believe in  
therefore I believe the poverty level should  
be increased to 50%.

10  
94  
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## VISITORS' REGISTER

## HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

January 26, 1987

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT

SRS-EA

AFDC  
GA

NAME (please print)	Representing	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
R. L. "PINKY" Nelson	Balt CCC	✓	
Michal Kaplan	Missoula Options Unlimited	✓	
JANIE SULLIVAN	Options Unlimited	✓	
Annalyn Stewart	Project Work Program	✓	
Rodney & Lee	Project Work - Lewis/Clark	✓	
Charles Simpson	Project Work Program	✓	
John Peterson	Mt Catholic Cong	✓	
G. Lisa	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Leo Jones	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Cornell Blue Star	C.C.C. " "	✓	
George H. Doney	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Margaret Brookbank	C.C.C. " "	✓	
John F. Lynn	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Reynold Standen	C.C.C. Great Falls	✓	
Scott W. Burson	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Allen Birds	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Shirley Swettin	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Justin Baker	C.C.C. " "	✓	
Marie Christopher	Butte Comm. Union	XX	

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

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DEPT SRS - EA.

NAME (please print)	Representing	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
RICHARD HUDAK	PWP		
Mignon Waterman	Mont. Assoc. of Churches		
Marie Christophe	Butte Comm. Union		
Anna HARRIS	Butte Comm. Union		
Lori Buxcel	Helena		
Chris Chapman	Helena		
Cliff Ramsey	"Montana Senior Citizens Association"		
Patricia Glass	"		
Anna Morgan	Mont. Assoc. of Churches		
<del>Waterman</del>	Dist XI ARDC		
Barbara Archer	Women's Lobbyist Fund		
Jane Spads	Women's Lobbyist Fund		
Sue Fifield	MELC		
Judith H. Carlson			
Marie Schreiber	Great Falls		
Linda Loas	Missoula MHC/Light.		
Roger Cox	Missoula int MHC/L.T.G.H.T.		
Ann Sanders	Great Falls		
Jim Todd	Great Falls		

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SRS - EA - AFDC  
CA

NAME (please print)	Representing	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HUGH STANDLEE	MLIC LIGHT		
Anna M. Harris	Butte Comm Union	X	
D. Phaele Nowanach	CCC Belt mt.	X	
Suey Sanders	CCC	!!!	
CARL LINDBLOM	CCC Great Falls	✓	
Roger Cox	missionary mt / shift	✓	
Linda Lass	Miss. MLIC / L.G. N.T.	✓	
Jim Todd	CCC Great Falls	✓	
Diane Meek	CCC Great Falls	✓	
Mark Good	CCC Great Falls	✓	
J. Ann Thompson	CCC Belt	X	
Clay Kruy	Helena MLIC-MSCA	✓	
Cor Lindberg	CCC Mt. Falls	✓	
Williamson	CCC Belt	✓	
Reine M. Byrd	CCC Great Falls	X	

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