#### MEETING MINUTES HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4, 1987

The meeting of the human services subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Winslow at 8:07 a.m. on February 4, 1987 in room 325 of the state capitol building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY - DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD)

(31a:000) Dave Lewis, director of Social and Rehabilitative Services (DSRS), spoke briefly on the issues that would be addressed before the committee, namely the need for expansion for the waiting list, and the problem with the level of provider support.

Chris Volinkaty, lobbyist for Developmentally Disabled, introduced the testimony that would be presented to the committee, including respite care, family training, day programs, supported work, independent living, specialized family care, and the new proposed special services support organization.

Tom Crosser, chairman of the Developmental Planning Task Force, asked the committee to consider the percentage of the developmentally disabled population that was unserved or underserved, and how to best meet those needs. He covered the final report (exhibit 2) of the task force, and described the summary of their recommendations, which he described as a roadmap to the future.

In response to a question from Chairman Winslow, Mr Crosser stated the first mile of the road map had been introduced in two (2) senate joint resolutions which reflect, in a broad way, the recommendations made by the task force. He stated the only monetary recommendation was the Special Services Support Organization (SSSO). He noted other recommendations can be accomplished during the interim without a substantial financial impact. He stated he did not see any one recommendation in particular being the first step, but noted the executive budget reflects a move into the right direction, with the Developmental Disabilities restructure under one (1) administrative system. He stated the reason the task force did not come up with a recommendation for a specific agency designation for DD was because they felt it was beyond the role and scope of the task force. He stated the team did not look at those issues, but realized there were some obvious questions that needed to be addressed. He added that one of the resolutions in the senate

HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4, 1987 PAGE 2

calls for a legislative interim study to restructure the DD services.

In response to an inquiry from Rep Switzer, Mr Crosser defined a naive offender as a developmentally disabled individual who comes in contact with the criminal justice system and is not cognizant of the right or wrong of breaking that law.

There was discussion of the final report (exhibit 2) that was submitted by the DD task force and the general information it contained. Sen Himsl commented that the report was not specific enough and asked for more guidance and specific direction on how to proceed with the task force recommendations.

(31a:250) Brodie Mall, director of Northern Gateway Enterprises, covered the issues and concerns raised through the Priorities for People (PFP) process dealing with the DD program. He stated the primary concern was the restoration of the base at 4%. He added that it will take \$3 million to address the waiting list of 289 people identified as unserved. Other issues supported by the PFP process was a the 52 bed SSSO for the severely handicapped, supported work for the 172 graduates from special education from high school who have no services available, and upgrading respite care to the Montana minimum wage from the current wage of \$1.15 (exhibit 18).

(31a:306) Rep Jerry Nisbet, president of the board of directors for Region II Child Care Services, addressed two (2) points: (1) facilities have been at the same funding level for three (3) years while operational costs have risen and staff are paid significantly lower wages than comparable other positions and (2) a freeze or decrease in the provider reimbursement rate would result in the deterioration of services provided.

(31a:353) Peyton Terry, Glasgow, explained the services that have been provided to his daughter, who is now 32 years old and mentally retarded. He stated she had received excellent services up to the age of 18, at which time there were several unsuccessful attempts to find placement for her. She is currently in the Transitional Living Complex (TLC) and making tremendous progress. He added he supported previous statements in support of DD programs and urged continued support of the programs in Montana.

(31a:436) Rep Les Kitselman, Billings, explained that his son Brian suffered from ensephalitis of unknown origin. He stressed the importance of the support his family received from the people and the programs. He added he is a strong HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4, 1987 PAGE 3

supporter of early intervention and supported full funding of the DD program.

(31a:466) Jim Foster, superintendent of schools, Chester, spoke on two (2) issues: (1) the problem of youth graduating from high school special education and having no services available for them, the problem of long waiting lists for current services, and the regression that takes place when there is no follow up after graduation. He stated there is no future for those youth, and encouraged expansion of funding for services for this population of unserved youth. (2) Mr Foster has a 15 year old autistic son in Billings receiving special intensive care. He said that in three (3) years, when Brian is 18, he will not be eligible for servic-He stated Brian has made tremendous strides and es. progress, and thanked the legislature for the progress in the programs for the handicapped that are currently available. He concluded by asking the committee's consideration of program expansion for those youth like Brian who will be ineligible for services and for whom there are no other services available.

(31a:568) Jessie Schlinger, Kalispell, testified that she has been involved in foster care for 20 years. She added that she has a developmentally disabled daughter who is now 15 years of age who was not fortunate enough to receive the services that are now available. She said that two (2) years ago they took Joey into their home for care, and it took almost a year before he could receive services from the Comprehensive Development Center (CDC) in Missoula. She expressed the importance of the staff from the center in maintaining Joey in the home and providing relief for the family; their dedication and the low pay they receive for the types of services they provide. She stated it took two (2) years to get respite care, and that she could not take care of developmentally disabled children without the support of the staff and trainers and services she received from CDC.

(31a:650) Greg Olson, director of Westmont, spoke on behalf of the staff and program at Westmont. He said that since the special session in June and the loss of DD funding, there have been no raises for his staff. He noted the starting salary is \$4.30 at the facility compared to \$6.00 at the Montana Developmental Center; a position with less responsibilities than are required at Westmont. Mr Olson stated his staff are having a hard time making it; that of the 71 FTE's employed at Westmont 21 are married, 11 are single parents, 13 of which are employed outside of Westmont in other positions, 12 are eligible for AFDC, food stamps, or some type of assistance. He explained his concern that he will not be able to keep the staff he presently has unless he gets an increase in the budget, and that a 3% increase would be wonderful, while a decrease or a freeze would result in a lay off of staff. He stated that in past contracting sessions he was told formally by the division that there was to be no layoff of direct care staff, and that any layoffs from lack of funding were to come from administrative staff. He said he was told informally that this was the case again this year. He noted of the 71 staff members, only six (6) are administrative positions, and that he couldn't maintain services without the current administrative personnel. He also supported the creation of the SSSO, and urged consideration of employee wages at the state matrix for the organization.

(31b:035) Florence and Patti Massey, mother and daughter, testified that the DD system is working well for them, but that it is just not extensive enough to be covering everyone that needs services. Mrs Massey explained that Patti had an inutero stroke three (3) weeks before birth, and she received no early intervention or support until she was eight (8) years of age. Mrs Massey stated it was a fight even then to get her into the school system. She said Patti lived at home until she was 24 years of age, at which time she entered TLC. Mrs Massey also noted that Patti has attended the Billings Workshop since she was 21. She expressed her support for a tax to cover expansion of DD services in the state, including a sales tax.

(31b:080) Randy Thomas, Billings, read his prepared testimony (exhibit 14), in support of DD services. His four (4) year old daughter, Paula, has numerous physical disorders. Mr Thomas expressed his gratitude for the services being provided in the state that enables his family to care for Paula in their home.

(31b:099) Jerry Sherman, Billings, stated that for the past four (4) years she has managed the Pizza Hut restaurants in Billings, during which time she has worked with four (4) clients placed by Vocational Placement. She said that in 1983 Art Gunther, then president of Pizza Hut, Inc., visited the Billings businesses and met three (3) of the clients employed at that time, and was very moved by what he saw. She added that she had just received word that Pizza Hut Inc. is committing nationally to have a position available in every one of the restaurants for developmentally disabled individuals. Ms Sherman stressed the employers need for the professional services of the trainers for themselves, the staff, and the people placed in their businesses as well as a working relationship and partnership with vocational placement for the disabled.

(31b:142) Larry Sherwood explained the services he had received through the DD programs. He said he currently is

HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4, 1987 PAGE 5

living independently, doing his own cooking and laundry, and receiving some support services. He said he was not dependent on any assistance and working at Goodwill in Billings to support himself.

(31b:164) Judy Fisher, Laurel, related the difficulties and heartbreaks her family faces as her son, now 20 years old, is unable to find employment. Mrs Fisher stated her son is a hard worker, can drive and is capable of working, but due to his handicap he has not been able to find employment. She related a very difficult episode they experienced when her son, upon arriving at her husband's employer for a part time job, was told the company did not hire people like him. Her husband has spent several weeks preparing him for this job, telling him what to expect, and it was a very traumatic experience for him and the family when he was rejected. She stated he is getting depressed and lonely, he has no social life or friends he can talk to, and she expressed the frustration of not having any avenues or programs to help him reach his potential.

Chairman Winslow expressed the committee's appreciation to those who had come to testify, and their understanding of the difficulty of talking about areas so close to them.

(31b:234) Sue Kaphammer-Myers, Stevensville, is the mother of an 11 old month son, Joshua, who is a down syndrome baby. She stated that with the services they are receiving from the Comprehensive Development Center (CDC) her son is developing and progressing. She added that they only had to wait four (4) months for services. She asked for support of funding for early intervention and an ongoing commitment to Montana's DD programs, and encouraged tax increases necessary to meet the state's responsibilities.

(31b:294) Bill Sirak, president, Easter Seal Society, Goodwill Industries of Montana, read his prepared text (exhibit 7) in support of community based services and the proposed SSSO.

(31b:353) Lura Nesmith, Special Training for Exceptional People (STEP), Billings, submitted exhibit 3, which compares the salary and benefits of the STEP direct contact employees versus school district two (2) classroom aide employees and covered the discrepancies between the programs. She stressed the need for compensation for the direct contact workers and the dissatisfaction felt by those employed as direct contact employees for the services that needed to be provided and the compensation received. She shared the responsibilities, trauma, and involvement of the workers with those they care for. Ms Nesmith stated incentives were needed to be worked into the budget, and that in six (6) years 31 individuals have come and gone in the STEP program; most to get employment that offered benefits. She closed by thanking the members of the committee for serving on the committee and for the committee's past efforts.

(31b:455) Richard Harris, Missoula, presented his written testimony (exhibit 10) in support of services for those who are unserved. Mr Harris has a daughter who is severely brain damaged and profoundly retarded, and who is currently on a waiting list for services. He expressed his frustration and grief over not being able to find sufficient services for this daughter, and stated she is an appropriate candidate for specialized family care, but that this services has a three (3) year waiting list for services. He closed by endorsing a tax increase for funding of these services.

(31b:516) Chris Calhoun, Butte, testified that her two (2) preschool children have received services and that her son, George Christopher is developmentally delayed. She expressed the need for family services and early intervention, and asked for support for full funding of services.

(31b:542) Katharin Kelker, Parent's Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK), read her prepared testimony (exhibit 4) on the federal financial support available to states for early intervention programs for handicapped infants and toddlers. She stated that under Public Law 99-457, Montana may request a block grant for \$244,000 to plan and organize the implementation of early intervention programs for children 0-2 years of age. Ms Kelker stated Governor Schwinden has already designated the DD division as the lead agency for the state. She concluded by stating this was a window of opportunity for receiving federal support for early intervention services and asked for support of this grant.

(31b:592) Reverend John Cozby, Anaconda, with his infant daughter, who is a down syndrome baby, spoke in support of early stimulation, intervention, and home trainer services and the importance of help to meet the needs of the children and the families. He stated his family doesn't want institutionalization for their daughter, but they are unaware of all of their daughter's special needs. He stated their family needs support to maintain her in the home, and that these services and programs are cost effective in the long run in comparison to institutionalization.

(32a:016) Pat Lucero, Billings, read her prepared text (exhibit 21) concerning her two (2) year old son who has cerebral palsy. She said Tyler is receiving services through STEP in the form of trainer services, respite, a home teacher and adaptive equipment. She asked for HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4, 1987 PAGE 7

consideration of the children in need of special services like her son. She also thanked the committee for the services provided to her family that have made their adjustment of raising a handicapped child easier. She concluded by asking support of increased funding to maintain DD services.

(32a:054) Paul Odegaard, presented his prepared text, exhibit 5, in behalf of their 13 year old daughter who is severely mentally retarded. He said he felt they were fortunate in that they had been involved in many of the new programs implemented in the state for DD individuals, including early intervention and handicapped center services. He expressed how hard it was as a family to grow up and cope with a handicapped child. He added that respite care was the first chance they had to become a family again, and how important a couple of hours a week or two (2) weeks was to them. Mr Odegaard stated his daughter is currently in a group home, and since placement he has seen tremendous changes, and he noted his tremendous are very important little steps. He complemented the fantastic job done by dedicated group home workers and vocational placement staff. He stated he is an employer and uses DD employees, and that they are fantastic workers, with supported work a very important segment of DD that is working very well. He thanked the committee for expansion money from the last session, especially for the autistic group home which is doing very well. He said the autistic families who have had such a rough time over the years are finally feeling a little relief.

(32a:142) Sylvia Danforth, director of DEAP, Miles City, covered respite care and its importance to the families, allowing children to remain in the home. She noted DEAP provides 37.5% more services in the respite program while the budget increase for direct respite care increased only 23%, which translates into less money per family served. She stated the actual statewide average reimbursement for respite is \$1.09 an hour, and that it was difficult to find qualified individuals to provide care at this rate. Ms Danforth stated that families who must pay a much higher hourly rate for skilled care must decrease the number of hours they have available to them and/or less options. She said adequate funding would allow families to care for their DD children in their homes. She concluded by stating respite helps provide a cost effective and positive environment for most of the handicapped children being served.

(32a:168) Linda Zermeno read her prepared testimony (exhibit 16) in support of DD services. She said she was a single parent of two (2) sons aged 11 and eight (8). Her oldest son, John Paul, is autistic and currently resides in the REM Montana group home for autistic children in Billings. She stated she strongly agreed with and supported previous testimony. She also expressed her gratitude for the funding for the services that are currently being provided. Ms Zermeno closed by endorsing a tax increase in order to maintain the current services and address the needs of those DD individuals still on waiting lists.

Cathy Peterson, Great Falls foster parent, (32a:204)representing specialized foster care, described the children served and services provided under this program. She talked about Jill, who was diagnosed as having cerebral palsy, and then rediagnosed with a deteriorating brain disease. Her health deteriorated rapidly, and with the support of home trainers, physicians, child and family care workers, nursing care and respite, Jill was able to remain in her home until the time of her death. She felt it was a big achievement to serve this child in a home environment versus two (2) years of hospitalization. She said after Jill's death last June, another child who is blind and microsephalic was placed in their home and is receiving many of the same services Jill had the opportunity to receive.

(32a:265) Chuck Super, Billings, asked for support for funding for providers and their staff, endorsed the SSSO, and the proposed reorganization of SRS.

Chairman Winslow then addressed the audience and (32a:330) expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts and that the committee understood the emotions that were felt when dealing with these issues. He noted, however, that the committee deals with these issues across the board in a lot of other areas as well. He stated the unfortunate situation is that to date, the financial situation has not changed, and that the public does not seem to be in support of any kind of tax increases. He said as some have testified in favor of the sales tax proposals, but at the present time sales tax proposals will not provide any general fund money, but are in fact replacement taxes for property tax relief. He noted a 20% property tax reduction translates into a \$400 million deficit. He said these facts are to bring everyone back to where the state is at. He stated the need to look at the priorities, reorganize, and in some cases, make people more accountable in the human services areas. He pledged efforts to do the best job possible in the next few days under very difficult situations.

The meeting was adjourned to room 108.

Eligibility Determination

Peter Blouke, LFA, covered the budget and issue sheets concerning the eligibility determination program.

(32a:403) Dave Lewis stated one of the mandates of putting the new department together, from the governor's office, was that this was to be a no increase cost situation. A problem arose with the salaries for county directors and clerical support staff, who are funded 20% from social services and 80% from eligibility determination. The eligibility determination program absorbed the 20% of the salaries from social services to make the transfer to the new department on a revenue neutral budget basis. He said the difference on the budget issues is that the 9.24 FTE in the executive needed to have 15.8 FTE added on to have the existing positions funded 100% from the eligibility determination program with no net increase in cost. He stated the current level FTE for eligibility determination was 385.6 FTE, and that he had agreed to absorb \$300,000 in vacancy savings to comply with the concerns of keeping the new department at a no cost increase level. After a budget review by the committee and Gene Huntington, it was determined that all of the money taken out for funding the new department was not needed, and Mr Lewis asked that the money cut from the budget be returned.

Lee Tickell, administrator of the Economic Assistance Division (EA), SRS, stated this budget covered staff and travel for both the state and non state administered counties, i.e. allowing directors and staff to travel for training purposes, home visits and investigations.

In response to an inquiry from Sen Himsl, Mr Lewis clarified that \$7.3 million is raised by the 12 mill levy from the counties and the actual cost of those services is \$20 million, with the state putting in \$13 more than they are receiving in reimbursement. He noted that for ease of accounting, the 12 mill levy is placed in the medicaid program.

Norm Waterman, director, Lewis and Clark County (32a:650) Welfare, covered some of the problems in the county that cause people to complain about service delivery and to give his support to the proposed FAMIS automation system. He stated the agency is a paper oriented agency with dozens of forms requiring handling by four (4) or more individuals for completion. If there are any errors in the process and a client utilized medicaid services without the proper information being in the system, payments for the bills submitted by the providers are rejected. He noted the stress this creates on staff, providers, and the clients needing servic-Mr Waterman stated the agency could not handle an es. increase in the caseload with the current delivery system,

HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE FEBRUARY 4, 1987 PAGE 10

and that automation would alleviate the multiple handling and diminish the error rate. He stated he would never say automation would reduce the need for staff in future years, he said it might cut the need, but as caseloads grow there will probably be a need to increase staff to handle those caseloads, but that with automation paperwork processing would be faster and could be done more effectively. He concluded by stating his staff are at the saturation point, and without the pilot automation program currently in place, they would be buried in the paperwork.

(32b:052) Wanda Stout, director, Jefferson County Human Services, read from her prepared statement (exhibit 11) in support of the FAMIS automation system.

In response to a question from Sen Himsl, Ms Stout clarified that on the pilot project their agency has inquiry access only into the state system, which they pay by the length of time on-line.

(32b:106) Chairman Winslow asked if there would be any opportunity to reduce staffing when computers are implemented, and, as testimony has indicated, it will take less time to process the claims and paperwork.

Ms Stout stated that tasks are prioritized and those at the bottom of the list are not getting done due to the workload, and with automation those tasks could be completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. (32b:170)

Cal Winslow, Chairman

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### DAILY ROLL CALL

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HUMAN SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date Delmary 4, 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Cal Winslow, Chairman	X		
Sen. Richard Manning, Vice Chair	X		
Sen. Ethel Harding	<u>X</u>		
Sen. Matt Himsl	X		
Rep. Dorothy Bradley	À		
Rep. Mary Ellen Connelly			
Rep. Dean Switzer	···X		
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TESTIMONY SHEET:

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Name: E. Lee and Marian (1. Swarth
Address: 2517 Briggs Mt
Name: <u>F. Leo and Marian (1. Swarth</u> Address: <u>2517 Brigge St</u> <u>Misserula</u> , <u>Montana</u> , <u>51803</u>
Pipple'
as the parent of a mentally handicapped child
A geel A must express to you min concerns over the
- upcoming budget changes concerning Social Services for
the disabled. Is a former recipiant of Nome Services
rendered by the Western Montana, Comprehensive
- Development Center (CDG.) I am acutely aware of
the reception of confin education, las the developmentally
the recessity of early education for the developmentally
- My daughter Priannon is a five and one half
year old developmentally delayed child. all age twenty-six
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nonthe with the recommendation of our family physican we enlisted the services of CDC to help determine
the best possible course of action to take in order
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and most productive self. at age thirty months, we
begin a process called some Training, to teach we the parente
and the child herself, how to care for her, meet her
everyday needs, and que her the best possible start to an
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TAILOT VKILLA. THE COULD NOT NOLD A VROON, Was barely able
to grasp a cup and it was extremely tedious to dress
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to dress Rerself nor the mental or verbal capabilities
to explain a way to help us help her! She was
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part of our lives, but lived in her own world and her father and D had no idea how to enter that world orhouto murte her ento curs. Rhiannon is now give years, light months old. This a bright, blautiful child with huge, dark, lyes that light up with fife, hope and best of all curiosity. She has received speech therapy phipical therapy and occupational therapy all included as part of her special education. Der speech, though not equal to that of her chronological peers, is colorful and understandable. She walks, rums, jumps, plays, ping lesame treet pongo at 135 decibals, and causes mischierious trouble capable only from a child with intelligence cnough to know shis garnishing a reaction! This mind has been unlocked to a world she may have never realized without the help from C.D.C.'s most important services. Bhiannon is still developmentally delayed, but the gap between her and her peers is slowly closing. Without carly intervention by the skilled and concerned disability providers of CDC., we most assuredly would have had to make a painful decician concerning the guter of our child. An institution would

EXHIBIT 1 

surely have been more expensive not only in financial terms but in the terms of the loss of dignity of a human being. Rhiannon will most probably need the continued services of State disability pervices. On order you her to become a productive member of society instead of another burden on the welfare system She will reed many more years of special education. Through careful planning and work she will be an assett versus a Cliability to herself and her community. I want my daughter to be able to provide for herself, not depend on the government for her desires and needs. D want my child to be proud to a part of this state and to be able to continue to say " all by myself! A did it, mom! all by myself!!" We need these services in order to see this hope realized. The money you save now will be nothing compared to the money it will cost to support the unequicated children of today, tomorrow. Dease reconsider the absolute necessity of services for the disabled. At is important to the pride and dignity of a community of people loho because

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they are labeled different or disabled, they are not considered viable parts of society. They are a part of us and with our help and support they will be a valuble part of our world as is the life of any human being. Use reap what we sow. Let us nousies beautiful flowers, not thorms weeds. thorny weeds Thank you. Sincerely Marian G. Swart n na synatt anatolini (n. 1997). and a second 

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## Final Report

# Developmental Planning Task Force

December 1986 Helena, Montana

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JANUARY 1987 SALARY AND BENEFIT COMPARISON:

STEP Direct Contact Employees Versus School District #2 Classroom Aide Employees

	School District #2 Special Education Classroom Aides	STEP Group Home Direct Contact Employees	Recommendations
1. Training Requirements	None	A. SRS Medication Administration Certification B. Montana Chauffeur's License	
		C. CPR Training D. American Red Cross Certification	
2 Pay Scale 0-3 months 3-6 months 6-9 months 9-12 months 12-18 months 18-24 months 18-24 months 24-30 months 30-36 months 36-48 months 48-60 months 60-72 months 72-84 months	\$4.69 5.16 5.16 5.27 5.27 5.27 5.40 5.40 5.51 5.60 5.73 5.84	\$4.30 4.73 4.85 4.96 5.08 5.08 5.40 5.61 5.82 6.03 6.24 6.45	
3. Holiday Pay	All Holidays off without pay.	Double time on holidays worked.	
4 Overtime Pay	None	One and one half times base salary for hours worked over 40 hours per week.	
5. Vacation Time	None	Paid vacation after 18 months continous employment equal to the average number of hours worked in the previous 6 months, not to exceed 32 hours. (Averages to 2.6 days per year maximum)	

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Page 2 January 1987 Salary and Benefit Comparison

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	School District #2 Special Education Classroom Aides	STEP Group Home Direct Conctact Employees	Recommendations
6. Sick Leave	10 days per year to a maximum of 120 days. Bereavement days up to 5 days per year.	None	
7 Health Insurance	Full premium paid by school district (for single person working at least 4 1/4 hours per day)	None	
8 — Dental Insurance	Same as above	None	
9 Life Insurance	Same as above	None	
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#### **TESTIMONY SHEET:**

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KATHARIN A. KELKER Name: 2210 FAIRVIEW PL. Address: BILLINGS, 11T 59/02 252.7596 or 657.2055 Division has The Developmental Displicition ~ nata to participate AM: appon Lenchets (M) legislation 457 mindio at onstu intervention Indes Red an lu in ens cograme ine. n e 2 signal on in tina moura ase mandaement, canpe 4 toddless. 40 andi infants han alreading nourmon designated winder) our lead mmean ns orían 1 110 ien eriaeneral, 12 Milis 42 Mara " window of have lm tuni a support HAD. Dece invision in this actinto worthus

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To: Honorable Members of Joint Human Services Committee of the Appropriation CommitteeRe: Hearing on the DD BudgetFrom: Paul and Ande Odegaard, Parents and Taxpaying Voters

1.

We are the parents of a thirteen-year-old girl who is severely mentally retarded. After many years of trying to cope with her on a 24-hour basis and using the services available to us, we had her screened for a group home and she was accepted in March of 1986. Her progress has been steady, she is beginning to become more independent in selfhelp skills and her behavior is under much more control. Personally, we as a family are more productive citizens because the stress level has decreased measurably.

Today we are writing about the possible cuts in funding of the DD budget for the future. We realize that we have economic problems within this state, but please don't take it out on our DD population who have gained so much in individual growth in the past few years since deinstitutionalization was begun. In fact, in order to maintain the services we have for those persons who are not on the waiting list, we ask for a reinstatement of the 3% increase for '88-89 fiscal year.

A decrease in funding for DD programs would mean a cut in direct care staff for the clients. In the past two years there has already been a cutback in the amount of funds for the DD division. We cannot handle any more additional trimming without seriously jeopardizing the programs in existence. In our own situation, the cutback will undoubtedly result in the loss of stable employees in our group home. These people have not received a pay raise for two years. Their knowledge and experience of how to cope with our DD individuals is invaluable. You cannot put untrained, inexperienced persons immediately into a group home and expect them to understand how to control behaviors, and teach basic skills such as brushing teeth, combing hair, toileting, walking, and talking. Could you do it? Could you do it without training? Would you have the knowledge and patience to break down the training of a simple task such as brushing teeth into 13 steps and repeat the training of this task daily for unknown years? It is because of the trained staff that our individuals have made positive gains toward becoming independent. Our people need to be in constant training- maybe at a lower level on certain skills that they have "learned", but there are new skills being taught all the time.

High on the priority list for elimination in several group homes is transportation because of the high cost of liability insurance for their vans. If this budget item gets higher and your budget cut happens, it will be necessary to cut out transportation - then our people become prisoners of

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their own group home. We know of families with a DD person in their home that experience enormous 24-hour stress, consequently making the adults and children unproductive in their day to day activities. We were one of these families. Respite care and specialized family care were important help for our family and is a critical need for many families. Please don't let these programs be cut back.

We appreciate the support you have given DD individuals in the past. We must take pride in the deinstitutionalization of Boulder and giving these people a chance to live in their own communities. Everywhere you look in Billings you have a DD individual working or participating in "normal" activities. Their life is so much more meaningful and it is certainly a lot cheaper then institutionalizing them.

We urge you to oppose the proposed budget cut and ask that you fund 3% above the executive budgeted level. Both the families and our DD individuals have a very tough time making it in this world- the proposed cut is going to make it that much harder. Do you want to take responsibility for their inability to become productive citizens of this state? Through programs such as supportive employment they can earn money, spend it, and pay taxes as well. They will return to society what they receive from society.

We also ask that you please work toward restructuring the tax structure of this state so that we don't have to go through this struggle every biennium. The services for DD clients are a necessary part of the total committment of our state.

If you need any help with convincing other legislators to understand your positive attitude towards funding of the DD system, please call on us to help you. As the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch says, "It really makes a difference when you know somebody cares."

Paul and Ande Odegaard

3238 Parkhill Belling, not 59/02

NAME: DATE:	4.87
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PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

#### Comments Supporting

A SPECIALIZED SERVICE AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

William N. Sirak

President

Easter Seal Society/Goodwill Industries of Montana

Members of the Appropriations for Human Services Subcommittee. My name is Bill Sirak. I am the President of the Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seal Society/Goodwill Industries of Montana. My organization has been involved in providing direct services to people with disabilities for more than 40 years. I have personally been involved with the organization as its President for the past 15 years. It is an organization that currently provides services in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. We have observed that the State of Montana has consistently provided a leadership role in encouraging, developing and coordinating an outstanding community based service delivery system for people with disabilities. The Governor's office, his administration and the Montana legislature must be commended for their leadership role in this area.

The Montana Easter Seal Society has been a partner with the State of Montana since the beginning of the deinstitutionalization

process. We are now the largest provider of adult DD services through our adult training facility in Great Falls and our Goodwill stores and plants located in Missoula, Billings and Great Falls.

The Governor's office and Social and Rehabilitative Services have recommended the development of a specialized service and support organization to serve an additional 52 severely disabled individuals in a community based setting. We compliment the SRS staff for bringing to you an extremely well-thought-out plan of action to serve people in their communities. We have found this plan to reflect national trends in a very unique, innovative and cost-effective manner. The SRS staff, and specifically the DD Division, should be commended for their research, study and recommendations in this area.

As a provider of community based services, we share the concerns of many other providers, as well as the legislative body regarding the current financial crisis in the State of Montana and the future funding base for current services. Although we feel that adequate funding for current services must remain a priority, the adequate funding, development and implementation of this proposal must be taken under consideration at this time.

Services to the most severely disabled population is a problem that simply will not go away. If it is not addressed immediately, the problem may become more profound and more costly. We are, therefore, encouraging the development of this

concept at this time.

One cannot deal with this issue without taking into consideration the practical and political issues centered around the future of the Montana Developmental Center, formerly known as Boulder. Past study groups such as the 909 Commission and subsequent task forces have recommended very specific and appropriate functions for the Montana Developmental Center and East Mont. The development of this project, therefore, should not be viewed as a competing or threatening project to those legislators and residents of Boulder and Glendive.

The fact remains, however, that national accrediting standards and national trends pose a very real threat to the way these two institutions currently provide services. It is important to note that the threat of loss of certification is not a reflection of the quality of care provided at those institutions, which I personally feel is excellent and beyond reproach. Rather, it is a reflection of a national trend toward community based services.

The proposal presented to you regarding the development of a specialized service and support organization is timely, reasonable, cost effective and deserves your immediate and serious consideration. If it is not dealt with now, we will deal with it at some future time with a greater dollar expenditure.



#### OFFICE BOX 6760

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59406

The Honorable Cal Winslow House of Representatives Capital Station Helena, Montana 59620

February 2, 1987

Dear Representative Winslow and Members of the Committee,

CX Ponsion of The Committee on Human Services will be considering to mandate Developmental Disability services. I strongly support this service and feel this service is in great need to continue the future service of this program.

My daughter Cathy, who is 2½ has been with Region II Child and Family Services for 2 years. Cathy was without oxygen at birth and has cerebral palsy. Cathy is my only child and I wish each of you could meet this darling bundle of life If you don't have a set handicapped child, it's hard to understand what happens when a handicapped child enters your life. In the two years we have been with Child and Family Services I have seen Cathy make some excellent progress by their service they have given us. You don't know how thankful I was to find there was such a service. The hardest part of having a handicapped child is being told you have one. By no means is the rest easy, but with the help of my Home Traineer, Terri Jones, we have been able to learn so much on how to help not only Cathy but ourselves as well in living with her. disability: I thank you for the support you have given his program as without it I would be lost in a world I know nothing about.

As you know the cost of raising a child is expensive, but the cost associated with a handicapped child is greater. There is extra medical costs and adaptive equipment that are part of the increase. As with everything the cost goes up every year and it becomes harder for this organization to continue their service. I would greatly appreciate you supporting a rate increase for this agency so they continue to help other families as they have help me.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

EXHIBIT 9DATE  $2 \cdot 4 \cdot 87$ 

My name is Susan Kaphammer-Myers; my husband, child and I live in the Stevensville area. I am a high school librarian, my husband is a chemical dependency counselor, and we are both life-long Montana citizens. I am asking for support of reinstatement of full funding for programs for the developmentally disabled.

Our eleven month old son, Joshua, is a Down's Syndrome baby. A generation ago he would have been institutionalized for life. But today he is a healthy, happy child who, thanks in large part to services we receive from the Comprehensive Development Center in Missoula, is progressing in motor, language, and cognitive skills. Joshua has received two detailed evaluations by a speech pathologist, a physical therapist and a psychologist. A home trainer, through weekly visits, provides a developmental program for Joshua. My husband and I could not alone provide for our child these services that are so crucial for his growth.

I understand that developmental disability services suffered a funding freeze as did most state programs. A continued freeze, let alone a cut-back of funding, could well mean staff reductions as increases in fixed expenses such as liability insurance and worker compensation insurance cut into their budgets. An increase over the next two years will be needed to maintain current services, even without salary increases. Staff reductions could mean, for example, longer waiting lists for services (we waited about four months for services for Joshua), and bi-weekly or monthly training sessions rather than the weekly sessions that keep Joshua's development progressing.

I am sure all legislators receive pleas for funding that combine to amounts far beyond the resources available. Knowing this, I don't know how to stress enough how services for the developmentally disabled make sense, not only for humanitarian reasons, but also for financial considerations.

It costs far less to provide home training such as Joshua receives than it costs to maintain a person in an institution. In addition, because of such services, the developmentally disabled can become self-sufficient to varying degrees, and even become tax payers, rather than tax burdens. Joshua's future holds the possibility of independent living and a productive lifestyle, because he is now receiving special help.

Money is tight; but programs for the developmentally disabled <u>save state</u> <u>monies</u> in the long run. Services cost money, and I am willing to pay. I would actively encourage support for a state tax structure, including increases, necessary to meet the state's responsibilities to all Montana citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Susan Kaphammer-Myers 344 Sky Pilot Lane

NAME: Richard B. Harris	10
NAME: Richard B. Harris	DATE: Februny 4 1987
ADDRESS: 808 Wood Foil Missionle 10	
PHONE: (426) 728-915-6	
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Waiting list for services. My wife and I Moving to another state, simply to estain our laughter. The state's service's are good	bet inadequate.
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PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

HB.

P. O. Box 836 Boulder, Montana 59632

I am here to speak in favor of the FAMIS automation system.

In the Jefferson County office, we have been a part of the S.R.S. pilot automation project. In this project, we have utilized a personal computer with various software and have had on-line inquiry to the Employment Service Wage Match and the S.R.S. mainframe.

Even though our capabilities through this project are considerably more limited than the FAMIS system would offer, we have saved considerable staff time in various areas. For example; monthly we are required to issue food stamp authorization cards. A duty that manually took at the least a full 8 hours of staff time. This task now takes 20 minutes. This is only one example of the many staff saving areas that can be utilized, reducing the need to increase staff.

With on-line direct input by workers, days of turnaround time can be saved and errors can be edited and corrected immediately. By having instant statewide search available, double-dipping and fraudulent reporting can be squelched at the time of application. Something that can go on for months before discovery under the current system.

In addition to saving staff hours, discovering the fraudulent applicant, and reducing errors, we would be able to provide a much faster service to the needy. We would no longer require days of mail turnaround time to acquire verifications, etc. Medical providers would also find their payments expedited as they could bill immediately rather than wait two weeks or more for our information to clear the current input system.

Thank you for hearing this testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you and hope that you will contact me if I can be of any further service to you.

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Stout, Director Jefferson County Human Services

ËXHIBIT-DATE J.U TESTIMONY SHEET: Feb 3/81 HB\_ ene Olsen Name: 🕓 ddress: 3/8 Windson liscle N Bil ling mt. 59105 ben am wi rene 1 Ť resided in Godlder 18 MML of in Severa ne: wa lingse in one mrs. in ine sen, anc 1983 ly inprove due Za Marane. luas. es. entra lings dears, here ra M ne U orked Ś to we 1 h her Ò. eraery Soop errous + the mai 1 Rounted Â at idut want 0 k wor unas. R. enio Trains e who. red ne. a 1 Mony ne years. programs n a is . e h Lome 1 in  $-\omega$ û Firely theids dr home a lusurel Eggin more, 4 which is They on tr lo hen au. era all en arlier ) They ventoring tiremen of near 5

ment. We appreciate her programs and his progress interrupprogram she has there must be mongh staff and suitable wages to cover the staff.

Sincerely Srene Oliven

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EXHERT 13 DATE 2'4.87

TESTIMONY SHEET: DIANE SAYLER Name: Box 261 RED LODGE, MT 59068 Address: \_\_\_\_ Mr Chairman, memburk of the committee. Far the record my name in Altane Sayler. Dlive in Red Lodge O am the mother of a 5 year ald developementaly delayed sire Sarah has been diagnosed as swerly Special Training mental retardation and without For Exceptional Deople, she or O, would not be Marly as far as we are at this point in time. Step has helped me not only in teaching basic self-help skills, but also helped me to cape and deal with behaviacal problems special Children Sometimes - Awelape. Without Step and their support and quidance Quarel have felt alone and isolated, in trying to help my child you to her full potential. Sarah has a speech impediment, seizure disorder, - left frontal temporal love Comage resulting from placenta Acfiliency. Because of our Child's hondicape we face more emptional and marrital stress and difficulty finding Quality Child, Care. a proposed 4% increase will help cut the inflation rate and help us to at least maintain programs. To Seene, the budget will mean cutting our home trainer Reruices and respite even Surther. Our home trainer from Billing has a wider area to Cauer and less time in order to do her jaw. We need the services of b) and Respite in our Community. my daughter and all special Children reserve anelaual apportunity to develope to their full potential. Without une bupport bur kide may never know the fulings of belf-respect outnined On order to have a promessive state we must have justice for all peoples And other parents of handicapped Children, O wish to sincurely, Thank you.

#### **TESTIMONY SHEET:**

2.4.8 Name: <u>Randy Thomas</u> Address: <u>3142 466th St. S.W. R.R.T.</u> Billings, Mt. 59106 Mr. Chairman, members of the nommittee for the record my name is Randy Thomas I live in Billings. is important to me because my is handicapped. She is 4 years he DD system daugkter Hollie Ann is handicapped. She is 4 has a cleft lip & palate cerebal palsey, alus a science disorder and chronic rocephalus a seizure disorder and respite care, family We oneumon lamily care ous physica her handi mana seriou problems severity of cap wit hou we would be force to inst our girl we are grate-have received and hop for all maybe ve Thank you

#### TESTIMONY SHEET:

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such Mulna Name: K 1 S. Blee Burk, M71 ddress: 199200 TS 5910. The Chairman for the record my game hom 15 illing. Aluina AV adas ald ma Her allen the 1.1 0 Am alet the Plus. Sindime man 1. The montana In Ketarded little ars. mark live at home and is empland the Billing Wickohop. Concerner in The 1910 ann 777775 hudget 116 neatly. heare marie inid atak Anne will mean m. Trat Mini herance -There would to work with him on jub productionet In Calaneo have talked with other ones The state that have had their children on Waite isto for I incars after actions wit of spece Ed. mound this spring with some on little int anduatine those that have let of ticenso iainini. Kal a unaked to Lind Arlos & have more The heed Lunding. , an areat keep. The programs come A maatt neul lein Piraten The Junia Low 7 Blin Aat Burlenc ly a homes. 1 km tel and line in 61 The reice Routine alley in wors Traux Some Corp. The burgets were from and the cost of 1. Man up The insurance Museurance ment Col lim the driving to certain Trainere. Thend atoms finnes must us pleetiansanup. Roma haraling - att antin Che. contation & as home Trues, henda until time #1 there mushen 2 Can 11 contail in Car a trained from another, mem take time To take a grause an nu

Not many years ago when the finding of · S Clients . Can you imagion what you would do if you were in Charge & 1 Secon had a bad seizure no one & call for help and a Client would parie & new out the door. The staffing got better. Two trainer Symost group home & some have 3 trainers for the more intensive training homes. may be some staff that would place to be laid off on have wage cut. help that wont has given our son and other. your in meeting, have paid off but he mill still need a group home in the future. in DD programs but we must hot go backinords. Swould be willing & pay more taxes all of montanas D.D. persons are looking I you for their fature.

Representation Cal Winslow und members of the Committee, My name is Linda Zermono and Dim from Billing 2.457 Dam a single parent of two sons age 11 and S. My oldest Son John Paul thas the problem of Autism and currently resides in the REM MT Group Home for Autistic Children in Billings. I thank bod that you recognized the needs of Autistic Children and supported our cause by appropriating funding for this Droup Home. Prior to his more into the Group Home in August, John Paul had received services from Respite Care, Family Training and Specialized Family Care. White been very fortunate. I ague with what others have a shed for during this Hearing I specially ask your support of Sprein stationent in fiscal years 1988 and 1989. Dwould support tak increases in order to maintain current services and address the needs of those DO individuals # still on waiting lists. Our kids have truly benefited from services provided the and it would the a tragedy indeed, for them to loose ground.

" I thank you for your time and concur,

## Summary of Recommendations Developmental Planning Task Force December 1986

#1 The Task Force recommends the consolidation of all services for persons with developmental disabilities under the same administrative authority.

Car Shine & Store States and a state of

- #2 The Task Force recommends consideration by the Legislature of a joint resolution of support for and policy commitment to supported work services for Nontana's citizens with severe disabilities.
- 13 The Task Force recommends that programs be established to fill gaps that exist in the array of DD services. To meet the needs of Montana's unserved and underserved citizens with developmental disabilities, the following programs must be developed: 1) specialized service and support organizations, 2) supported living, 3) adult conglegate living and 4) group homes. In addition, new and perfected programs must be established to serve geriatric citizens with developmental disabilities and those with intense medical and behavioral needs.

The Task Force views Nontana Developmental Center as an integral part of the array of services and recommends that it serve the following spliffic missions: 1) residential service provider for persons with severe behavior problems, 2) residential service provider for naive offenders, 3) residential service provider for persons with severe medical and/or care needs, and 4) professional resource for community-based DD service programs.

The Task Force views Eastmont Human Services Center as an integral part of ille orray of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and recommends that it specifically serve as an exemplary geniatric program for Montana's senior citizens with developmental disabilities.

- #4 The Task Force recommends improvements in community services in the areas of case management, respite care, and staff training, and the establishment of an additional service component--independent reviews of placement and treatment.
- 45 The Task Force recently to that the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Department of Station of Equiphibilitation Services be designated as the lead agency for a new scale grant program for handicapped infants and toddlers.
- #6 The Task Force recommends bassage by the Legislature of a joint resolution supporting increased public awareness of naive offenders and the establishment of policies and procedures to identify and treat them.

in the letter

NAME: Jonnie Koenig DATE: ADDRESS: 430 Church DA. Kalspel PHONE: 452-3370 REPRESENTING WHOM? Gavant 7 latter of Industrici for the Hendricogned DDPAC, Require I DD Connail, 7 lattered ARC APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: DO YOU: SUPPORT? // AMEND? OPPOSE? COMMENTS: Thenk you for your continuin's concern & support for service for the developmentally disabled.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

Krogie Mil DATE: NAME : NI Virainia / ADDRESS: 13 PHONE : REPRESENTING WHOM? APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: Human Service DO YOU: SUPPORT? // AMEND? **OPPOSE?** stumation readily COMMENTS: Service

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PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

EXHIBIT 20 NAME: Derothy A.S. C. Kark DATE: 2/4/87 ADDRESS: 11 Colling Marter Kill Bullings Mart. 5.9105 25 PHONE: 259-clolelo \_\_\_\_\_ REPRESENTING WHOM? DICHLER DUCKLED Manufally propriet man APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: Juni D. D. Services DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? OPPOSE? COMMENTS: My heart were out to the parants & offacts who Sobranely testified the morning Soliceally relate the hearthreak Pach bare endured in Varia a Handiesport Chill. Z hard lidea Abraugh 14 311; Zhan a maltiple handy-lapped sen, Mare 37 prod He was an R. H. baby when a caused Correspic Pelings dear -12051 retardation after going from the C. p. Cinter at Eastern FESS Many Callege, to Mana School for Deat inG. Tallest special Ed. In Billings ste ste ste my son 15 3150 ferming a Place off infor for prosent is at the Mana Duriepment. Conjer 24 Boucher. Floor ful Gov havi Mich goal thegenedan At the centra - Their acal emic training behavioral training Physical Et plus my som has 3 exceptioning Fine Hachers entra teach Signing for the dest forever the Center Mids PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Conder is no longer Locked at in the degrading way A conce The Center will definitly be delaged Sincerey-

Name:	Pat Lucero,	
Address:	744 Petrified Tree 1455	
	Bill Ny S MT 59/11	

MR ChairMAN, Members of the Committee For the record, My Name is PAT LUCERO, I live IN Billings. I am the parent of a two year old boy named Tyler who due to a premature birth has cerebral palsey. Tyler receives services from the Developmental Disabilities bodget through S.T.E.P. (Special Training for for Exceptional People), STEP provides A Home Teacher and AN Educational Aide for Tyler who visits Tyler weekly helping the set appropriate goals for My Son. This Service is extremely important since our school district has chosen not to offer a preschool for handicepped children.

Respite Care is another service we receive. Respite has allowed me to keep my sanity and has given me time to spend with my husband and daughter.

My Home Tracher has helped us acquire specialized adaptive quipment that is essential for our son's daily life.

IF you put a freeze on the dd budget and do not grant a 470 increase which is needed to allow an expansion of services it is my understanding that the end result will be a cut in personnel which will eventually cut services.

these services have made our adjustment of raising a handicapped child easier. For these services we wish to thank you.

Please consider all the children out there like Tyler in Need, of special services. I feel we must provide for our handicapped, specially children who cannot provide for themselves. I as a parent will try to do all I can for my handicapped child. Ly SON is lucky ! But will the next child be so lucky? The State of Montana should assure that he is.

## VISITORS' REGISTER

HUMAN SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE

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2/4/86 DATE COMMITTEE ON Sub Committee on Human Services Appropriations VISITORS' REGISTER Check One BILL # Support Oppose NAME REPRESENTING DOD/SRS Earlis h. Aquar Nellie Jame S.J. Annes y Harris Susan Kaphammer-Myers Self and family - LURA NESMITH STEP Self-Paul Nesmith Parento, Leto Unite for Kids Hatharin Q. Kelker DD/STEP. Patricia Lucero Jerton Yerry OU Reg! Apr Thomas DD andy W. Thomas DN Sell Tach many Viane Secler IO KI Pichard B Haus self DD/ZSC Easter Stor / Goodwill Bill Sirak Judy Naismith Jamely\_\_\_\_ DD Planning Insie Force Tom Crosser anewanner are Oler DD COMPANIE REGIT Donother schock igional Living Service ine Aavaster The Hushen Jui Sherman Vocational Placement

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