

MEETING MINUTES  
HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 14, 1987

The meeting of the human services subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Cal Winslow at 8:02 a.m. on February 14, 1987 in room 108 of the state capitol building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

(41b:200) Discussion on House Bill 600 opened the meeting, with committee members expressing their views of the legislation, a brief review of the statistics presented during previous testimony, revenue shortfalls and alternative funding for the GA program.

Rep Bradley noted that the assumed counties could reassert the six (6) month requirement if they wanted, which is an option exercised by the unassumed counties.

(41b:317) Sen Harding stated a concerted effort from across the state needed to be made for a constitutional amendment to rectify this problem regardless who has it.

Rep Connelly asked why the provision of benefits applied to the state assumed counties and not the other counties. Dave Lewis, DSRS, stated the constitution says the legislature shall provide for all classes. The state has been sued for noncompliance but the counties have not up to this point.

Chairman Winslow asked Mr Lewis if there was any way the state can control caseload growth at the present time. Mr Lewis said the department has appealed the 60 day limit; and if the court rules against the state all efforts to exert any reasonable type of limitations will be exhausted. The middle tier test that has been imposed on the welfare program is an almost impossible hurdle to clear, and the court decision on the appeal will further delineate the perimeters of the test.

In response to a second question from Chairman Winslow on controlling the growth of the state medical program, Mr Lewis stated there has not been a court suit on the issue of state medical, and the terminology in the laws is that the state has to provide treatment for any serious medical condition. He stated he would suspect that any tempt to limit it would end up in the courts, and with the current interpretations he doubted there was any avenue to control this program also.

(41b:371) Rep Bradley asked for a response on the statistics presented to the committee from Don Peoples. Dave

Lewis responded and stated that the comparison was drawn against surrounding states, who do not have a GA program. Sen Himsl also noted that the statistics in the letter to committee members relied on 1982 data.

(41b:400) Chairman Winslow stated that a comparison of total human services costs in the state per capita placed Montana in the top four (4). Dave Lewis concurred.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

HOUSE BILL 600

(41b:371) Rep Switzer made a motion that House Bill 600 DO PASS.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED, with Rep Switzer, Rep Connelly, Rep Bradley, and Rep Winslow voting yes, Sen Himsl, Sen Harding, and Sen Manning voting no.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES (DSRS)

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Personal Services

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the LFA current level for 1988 and 1989 with an adjustment of one (1) FTE, for a total of 65.30 FTE for the biennium.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

41b:600) Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive level of \$1,554,532 for 1988 and \$1,554,406 for 1989, adjusted for the addition of the 1.0 FTE.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Operating Expenses

Rep Bradley made a motion to accept the executive of \$376,785 for 1988 and \$371,309 for 1989.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Equipment

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive of \$3,810 for each year of the biennium.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

### Grants

Peter Blouke, LFA, noted the grants portion of the program is interrelated with the grants for the Visual Services Division (VSD), and the total amount of funds for VR grants and VSD grants, with one exception, is the same between the executive and the LFA. The allocation of grant funding is different between the executive and the LFA current level. There is one (1) exception: a \$20,000 general fund difference in the LFA current level for each year of the biennium. These funds were awarded in the current biennium to match a federal grant for special populations.

Maggie Bullock, Voc Rehab, stated the figure needed for federal matching funds for special populations was \$29,000 instead of \$20,000.

In response to a question from Chairman Winslow, Peggy Williams, VR, stated by placing these funds in the modified flags these funds as they go through the process, and that it was unfair, since the last legislative session appropriated \$20,000 each year of the biennium, which they consider current level. She continued this year they receive \$29,000 because the legislature gave the department a continuing appropriation the first year, not all of the funds were spent the first year, but carried over into the second year to match more federal dollars. The second year of the biennium they will spend \$29,000 to match \$250,000 of federal funds.

(42a:047) Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive of \$3,541,754 for 1988 and \$3,541,754 for 1989, adjusted, and including \$29,000 each year of the biennium for match of special populations federal funding.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED, with Rep Winslow voting no.

### Modified Request - General Rehabilitation Services

(42a:091) Sen Manning made a motion to accept the modified request of \$671,674 for 1988 and \$671,674 for 1989, and that the department would be allowed to use part of the funds in this modified to offset any additional personal service costs that could result from an appeal for an upgrade of several positions in the Visual Services program.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

### Modified Request: Special Population/Independent living

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the modified request for spending authority of \$261,171 for each year of the biennium.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Modified Request - Supported Employment

(42a:147) Chairman Winslow asked if there was a supported work program in Voc Rehab serving the special education graduates. Mrs Bullock stated the division does work with the high schools, the counselors, and especially with the students in their junior and senior year of school by providing career guidance and vocational planning.

Chairman Winslow asked Mrs Bullock if the committee directed the division to expand efforts in the area of special education graduates, since supported employment is 100% federal funding, would the division help out in this area. Mrs Bullock stated yes, that these individuals are part of the population under consideration as recipients of this program.

In response to a second question from Chairman Winslow, Mrs Bullock stated the division has taken a step in the direction of coordinating supported employment services by contacting and bringing a broad spectrum of service providers and constituency together as an advisory committee for this grant and another federal grant that will be coming into the state.

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the supported employment modification of \$572,080 for 1988 and \$470,517 for 1989, with direction to the division to expand efforts in the area of special education graduates.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Modified Request - Title 6 Services

(42a:248) Sen Manning made a motion to accept the modified request of \$375,000 for each year of the biennium.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Visual Services Division

Personal Services

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive FTE level of 19.90 for each year of the biennium.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the LFA of \$489,414 for 1988 and \$489,276 for 1989, adjusted.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Operating Expenses

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive of \$112,048 for 1988 and \$111,489 for 1989.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Equipment

(42a:290) Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive of \$7,670 for 1988 and \$8,115 for 1989.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Grants

Sen Manning made a motion to accept the executive of \$424,267 for 1988 and \$424,267 for 1989.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m. (42a:315)



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Cal Winslow, Chairman



