

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DOROTHY BRADLEY**, on February 1, 1991,
at 8 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dorothy Bradley, Chairman (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Cobb (R)
Rep. John Johnson (D)
Sen. Tom Keating (R)
Sen. Dennis Nathe (R)

Staff Present: Carroll South, Senior Fiscal Analyst (LFA)
Bill Furois, Budget Analyst (OBPP)
Faith Conroy, Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion:

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES (SRS)

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) DIVISION

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE DD PROGRAM (CONT.)

JanDee May, SRS Financial Management Officer, distributed
a breakdown of DD waiting lists. **EXHIBIT 1**

Tape 1A

SEN. WATERMAN apologized for being emotional at the end of the
previous hearing. She said she was glad the subcommittee
postponed action on final DD issues.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY thanked **SEN. WATERMAN** for her comments. She said
it is sometimes better to take the time to think through
difficult matters.

She noted that she asked the Department for cost estimates for
various expansion levels in Adult Services and Specialized Family
Care. She asked **Julia Robinson**, SRS Director, if she planned to
provide more information on the federal match with Adult
Services. **Ms. Robinson** referred to **EXHIBIT 1**. She said the
breakdown shows the number of people waiting for services and
what it would cost to provide the services. Some people have

accepted services at a less-than-desirable level. Once they do that, they may never get appropriate services because people without any services have priority. Special education graduates and costs for services are included in the Adult Services expansion proposal for 150 adults.

Ms. May said federal funding for people on the waiting list depends on the individual's Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver eligibility. Every child needing Specialized Family Care can be made eligible for the Medicaid Waiver. Supportive Work is not 100 percent matchable. Approximately 11 percent of that population is Medicaid Waiver eligible. Individuals on the Children's Home waiting list are 100 percent Medicaid eligible. Some services, including Respite Care, Family Training and Transitional Living, will not be Medicaid eligible, at least not during the next biennium. **Ms. Robinson** identified non-eligible services as those on the list showing identical biennial and General Fund costs.

SEN. WATERMAN asked if individuals listed under Special Education Graduates on Page 2 of **EXHIBIT 1** are the ones who will be graduating in the spring and if the 150 individuals listed under Adult Services are past graduates who are still waiting for services. **Dennis Taylor**, DD Division Administrator, said the 150 are upcoming graduates, past graduates and individuals whose caretakers have died.

SEN. NATHE asked where special education graduates go when services are unavailable and if 52 is a sound estimate of graduates each year. **Mr. Taylor** said 60-70 special education students graduate each year. About 10 percent get services as vacancies occur. The figure 52 reflects the historical trend. For a lot of graduates, where services are unavailable, one parent quits work to care for the individual. **Ms. Robinson** said many individuals are getting services, but it may not be the optimum service. **Cris Volinkaty** concurred with **Ms. Robinson**. She said **EXHIBIT 1** shows 15 people are waiting for Specialized Family Care but there are actually 60. The others are getting some other type of service, but it may not be appropriate. **Ms. Robinson** said the number of people with no services on Page 1 and the number of people with some services on Page 3 must be added together to determine the total number of people waiting for a particular service.

SEN. WATERMAN asked if would be correct to assume that if Specialized Family Care was provided to all 60 individuals who need it, services being used by the group waiting for Specialized Family Care on Page 3 would be freed up for others, and that freed-up slot may be what is needed for someone else on the waiting list. **Ms. Robinson** said yes. The Department provides services for the most needy first. After those slots run out, the next best service is provided. If all of the most needy individuals can be appropriately placed, slots would open up for people whose needs actually match the service.

SEN. KEATING asked what the relationship is between Part H Early Intervention and Specialized Family Care. **Mr. Taylor** said Part H is a lot more specialized. **SEN. KEATING** asked how many Part H clients are served. **Mr. Taylor** said 500-600 families each year of each biennium are deemed eligible under the definition of developmental delay. Funding limits allow the Department to reach 200-300 of those families.

SEN. KEATING asked if expansion of Adult Services would help serve handicapped high school graduates who would otherwise have no services and go to the bottom of the adult waiting list. **Mr. Taylor** referred to Page 2 of **EXHIBIT 1**. He said it will help if the subcommittee addresses special education graduates as part of the 150 needing Adult Services. The group of 150 individuals is a small subset of an even larger number of people waiting for services.

SEN. KEATING said that's what he is getting at. The subcommittee has been focusing on children, but the adult waiting list is growing. He asked if it would help the entire adult handicapped population, including individuals in transition from school, if relief were granted in the adult area. **Mr. Taylor** said the subcommittee's action to add 30 slots for intensive services provided considerable help for adults.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY suggested the subcommittee postpone efforts on salary enhancement, which will come to the Legislature in bill form. The 5 and 5 provider-rate increase is crucial. She suggested the subcommittee add 30 Specialized Family Care slots and 50 Adult Services slots. The funding mix for Adult Services is not as good, but the state may be legally vulnerable if movement isn't made. She hopes such expansion would give the DD community some comfort that it has the subcommittee's attention. Requests were for 150 Adult Services slots and 60 Specialized Family Care slots. Specialized Family Care will cost nearly \$200,000 in General Fund money for the biennium. She asked for someone to provide figures for Adult Services. **Ms. Robinson** referred to **EXHIBIT 2**. She said it will cost about \$500,000 in General Fund for 30 Specialized Family Care slots, 50 Supported Work slots and 50 Supported Living slots.

SEN. NATHE asked if supported living refers to group homes or in-home family supported living. **Mr. Taylor** said it refers to individualized support in the home of their choice. It is the one area in Adult Services that has a federal match and it costs less in start-up money than a group home. It is similar to semi-independent living, but semi-independent living is for people with extensive self-help skills.

SEN. NATHE asked what the Supported Work payment covers. **Ms. Robinson** said it helps pay job coach salaries. Job coaches help DD individuals make the transition into a job. It has nothing to do with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and is not used to cover living costs. **Mr. Taylor** said the money is tied to the

individual's vocational needs.

SEN. WATERMAN asked if there is a way to provide 60 Specialized Family Care slots. She said the cost would be an additional \$200,000. It is probably better to let the salary enhancement request go through as a bill.

MOTION: **REP. COBB** moved to add 30 Specialized Family slots, 50 Supportive Work slots and 50 Supportive Living slots.

DISCUSSION: **REP. COBB** said SRS has a special revenue fund of about \$462,000 that he would like to redirect before it reverts to the General Fund. It is one-time money from a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) grant.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Ms. Robinson said Department officials need to meet with **REP. COBB** because no one can identify the funding source he referred to. The Department saved \$500,000 by renegotiating the grant. This is within that amount. The Department would have reallocated the federal funding to use that \$500,000. There is money in the executive budget for this activity.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY said the Department and **Mr. South** will work on the funding mix and submit it to **REP. COBB** for his review. She asked **REP. COBB** to update the subcommittee on the work he had done on the Montana Developmental Center (MDC) building project.

REP. COBB said Institutions has some one-time money in Medicaid reimbursements, maybe \$1.8 or \$2.2 million. **Curt Chisholm, Institutions Director**, has been asked to look at whether the one-time money can be used to build the buildings if MDC is scaled back further. It's an \$8 million project. Medicaid will pay part of the cost. There may be a way to get the federal government to build the buildings for the state.

Mr. South said that if it is true that the state has not billed the federal government for the institutional costs it could have, and if the \$1.8 million will be paid by the federal government, it is not reflected in the LFA or Budget Office's revenue projections for General Fund. It is important to determine that the money is actually coming before the subcommittee moves forward with this. **REP. COBB** said he spoke to **Budget Director Rod Sundsted** who said the \$1.8 million is supposed to be coming but it isn't in the base yet.

SEN. KEATING asked what **REP. COBB** wanted to do with the money. **REP. COBB** said it would be used to build the buildings at Boulder.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY asked **Mr. South** to discuss the bonding process. **Mr. South** said there are two methods of bonding: the general

obligation bond sold by the state, as the executive is proposing for the prison. Bond payments are issued out of the General Fund. The Department has looked at borrowing \$8 million from the Health Facilities Authority, which sells bonds and loans money to hospitals and nursing homes. Many group homes that have been built under Phase I and II were built under this program. That requires a steady and reliable revenue source. The Department of Institutions was considering using federal Medicaid reimbursement for the Montana Development Center to pay off the bonds, but bondholders may not consider that a reliable source of funding. If Medicaid certification is lost for any reason, the revenue that backs the bonds would be gone. If it is new money, it could be placed in some kind of sinking fund and the first two or three years worth of bond payments on an \$8 million general obligation bond could be made out of this without impacting the General Fund. Preliminary estimates by the Department of Institutions indicate that operational savings would more than cover bond payments once construction is complete. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** suggested action on the issue be postponed until figures are worked out.

SEN. KEATING asked if the subcommittee should show support for the financing and bonding of the building at Boulder. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** said she is satisfied that **REP. COBB** will keep the subcommittee apprised of the financing debate. **SEN. KEATING** said he just thought the subcommittee could show support. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** suggested he make a motion.

MOTION: **SEN. KEATING** moved that the subcommittee go on record as supporting the building plan for Boulder.

DISCUSSION: **Ms. Robinson** noted that the Medicaid program receives some General Fund money from the Department of Institutions. SRS matches that money. Institutions has overpaid and SRS will have to pay back a substantial amount.

Tape 1B

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

SEN. WATERMAN asked if the subcommittee will be re-evaluating DD expenditures. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** said yes.

**HEARING ON VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND VISUAL SERVICES
DIVISIONS**

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Jim Smith, Montana Association for Rehabilitation and Montana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities representative, testified in support of a 5 percent provider-rate increase for rehabilitation facilities and expansion of the Vocational Rehabilitation Extended Employment budget by \$228,000 each year of the biennium so that 44 individuals can be moved from the waiting list into sheltered or supported employment. **EXHIBIT 3**

Mr. South distributed the budget summary for the Vocational Rehabilitation program. **EXHIBIT 4**

Wallace Melcher, Helena Industries President, testified in support of the expansion of Extended Employment opportunities, particularly for the head-injured. **EXHIBIT 5**

Lee Graham, Helena Safeway Manager, testified in support of the Supported Employment program and asked the subcommittee to support vocational rehabilitation program requests. **EXHIBIT 6**

Pat Domme, Montana Association for the Blind representative, testified in support of the Visual Services budget request. He described how the state program assists visually impaired and blind individuals, and asked for the subcommittee's support of the program budget request.

Marty Onishuk, Montana Alliance for the Mentally Ill representative, testified in support of services for the mentally ill. She urged the subcommittee to put as much money as possible into Supported Employment.

Sharon Miller, Assistant Vice President of Vocational Services for Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seals in Great Falls, read written testimony on behalf of **Chris Olson,** a head-injury victim. **Ms. Olson's** statement described how she became disabled and she expressed gratitude for the Vocational Rehabilitation program, particularly Extended Employment services.

Tape 2A

She and **Ms. Miller** urged the subcommittee to approve requested funding levels for Vocational Rehabilitation and expand the number of Extended Employment slots. **EXHIBIT 7**

Greg Engellant, Helena Industries client, testified in support of the Vocational Rehabilitation Supported Work program and described how it has helped him re-enter the work force. **EXHIBIT 8**

Cathy Bennett, Helena Industries client, testified about her job as a mail room employee at Helena Industries and thanked the subcommittee for its support. **EXHIBIT 9**

John Cummings, Opportunity Industries client, testified about his job in the wood shop at Opportunity Industries and how much happier he is now that he has a job. **EXHIBIT 10**

Patricia Andress, Helena Industries client, testified about her job as a cafeteria worker at Carroll College. She urged subcommittee support for programs like Helena Industries' Supportive Employment. **EXHIBIT 11**

Daniel Flachmeyer, Helena Industries client, testified about his job at Hendrickson Court Reporting. He urged continued support for Supported Work programs. **EXHIBIT 12**

Carol Hendrickson, Hendrickson Court Reporting owner, expressed satisfaction with Mr. Flachmeyer's work. She stressed the importance of Supported Work programs.

Arlene Barnard, Opportunity Industries client, testified about her job as a janitor at the Federal Building in Missoula. She said she has been in Extended Employment for three years and it improved her life. EXHIBIT 13

Darvin Brockway, Executive Director of Eastern Montana Industries in Miles City, testified in support of a 5 percent increase in Vocational Rehabilitation provider-reimbursement fees. He said the corporation had to lay off a person because of insufficient funding. A 5 percent increase is needed to avoid reduction of services. EXHIBIT 14

Jerry Merritt, Montana Association for the Blind in Great Falls representative, testified in support of the Visual Services budget. He described services he received through the Visual Services program and noted that Great Falls and Billings each lost a rehabilitation teacher and Butte lost a counselor. He said there isn't money to replace them and they are needed. He urged the subcommittee to increase Visual Services funding.

John DeHaas, Montana Association for the Blind representative, testified in support of the Visual Services program. He said it is difficult for Visual Service workers to reach people in eastern Montana. The program is short staffed. He described the summer visual program at Montana State University, noting it is dependent on SRS for referrals and financial support for clients participating in the training program. Without support, services would have to be cut. The program teaches visually impaired and blind people how to live independently. Costs have increased. It is important that the Visual Services Division has enough money to pay counselors and provide training.

Ms. Robinson distributed Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services statistical charts, EXHIBIT 15, and provided an overview. She said the Vocational Rehabilitation program was created in 1918 for disabled veterans from World War I. Its new responsibility is to implement the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The Division administers three programs: Vocational Rehabilitation, Visual Services and Disability Determination. The Vocational Rehabilitation program is 80 percent federally funded. Last year, 7,526 clients were served. The Visual Services Division served 846 clients. During the last fiscal year, 900 Montanans with disabilities got jobs. Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services have 94 staff members. Most of them are in 10 field offices statewide.

Costs are increasing and programs must be redesigned to address

the needs of the head-injured. The Department intends to present a proposal in the next session.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program receives money from the Workers Compensation Trust Fund. There is barely enough money to fund it in the coming biennium. It is a strange funding source and staff spend too much time trying to get at the money. It isn't an appropriate way to fund the program. The Department agreed to deal with the issue in the next session and will bring a proposal to the 1993 Legislature. The Vocational Rehabilitation budget was not increased. There is no money to deal with potential impacts from the war in the Middle East.

Tape 2B

Problems in the Visual Services program are not due to a lack of funding. State employee salaries are not competitive with other states and there is a shortage of specialists in the field.

Joe Mathews, Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services Divisions Administrator, said the mission of the Vocational Rehabilitation program is to help clients find jobs, live independently and become integrated in society. Some people served by the program have severe disabilities. Others just need an extra boost.

Each counselor serves 80-100 clients, who must meet a strict financial-needs test before state funds are issued. Clients must first seek other financial assistance.

Several Visual Services positions are not filled. The positions require highly specialized master's degrees. Montana schools do not offer the degree programs. Individuals must go out of state. The Division plans to hire people with bachelor's degrees in the Human Services field and arrange with South Dakota's training center to train Montana's staff. He referred to graphs in **EXHIBIT 15**.

Mr. South distributed and reviewed the budget for the Vocational Rehabilitation program. **EXHIBIT 4**. He said inflation factors in operations are higher in the LFA budget than the executive budget, but the base difference is higher in the executive budget. Non-Department of Administration increased rent is not in the LFA base but should be because it is a fixed cost.

A federally funded benefit program is being phased out. The correct figures to adopt are listed at the top of Page 2. The LFA and executive budgets do not include additional money for program expansions or provider-rate increases. Traditionally, the Legislature has authorized the Department to transfer benefit monies between Visual Services and Vocational Rehabilitation. That language should be continued to give the Department needed flexibility.

He reviewed the Visual Services program budget. **EXHIBIT 16**. He recommended the subcommittee adopt the executive budget for

benefits to establish the base. He noted that in many cases, private contractors contract with various divisions within SRS. The subcommittee has already approved a 5 percent provider-rate increase for the DD program. Many providers also offer services in DD and Medicaid Waiver areas. He suggested the subcommittee consider a commensurate increase to be consistent.

He also recommended the subcommittee approve expenditure levels and allow the Department, LFA and Budget Office to determine the funding mix that maximizes federal dollars.

Ms. Robinson said the vacant rehabilitation teacher position is needed. The LFA budget eliminates the position.

REP. COBB asked how Job Training Partnership Act money is used in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. **Mr. Mathews** said it is used for programs designed for low-income people and others who meet Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) criteria, such as the disabled. It is used for training and boosts income while the person is in training.

SEN. KEATING asked for an explanation of the state special revenue in the budget. **Mr. South** said it is the Workers Compensation money discussed earlier. **Peggy Williams, SRS Program Support Bureau Chief**, said most of the money is used for the state match.

SEN. WATERMAN asked if the budget included additional funding to address the head-injured and Extended Services waiting list. **Ms. Robinson** said no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Votes were taken on **EXHIBIT 4**.

MOTION: **REP. JOHNSON** moved to adopt the LFA base for operations, plus rent.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** 4-1, with **REP. COBB** voting no. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

Mr. South said the figures for executive equipment should be the same. He suggested the subcommittee adopt the executive budget.

MOTION: **SEN. KEATING** moved to adopt the executive budget for equipment.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously 5-0. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

MOTION: **SEN. KEATING** moved to adopt benefits and claims amounts on Page 2.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously 5-0. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

MOTION: **SEN. KEATING** moved approval of the JTPA money to finance the executive budget modifications.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously 5-0. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

DISCUSSION: **Ms. Williams** distributed cost figures for provider-rate increases of 1-5 percent. **EXHIBIT 17.** **Ms. Robinson** said a 5 percent increase would cost \$853,694 for the biennium. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** said the General Fund obligation would be about \$200,000.

MOTION: **SEN. WATERMAN** moved to include a 5 percent provider-rate increase for the biennium in Vocational Rehabilitation.

VOTE: The motion passed 4-1, with **REP. COBB** voting no. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

DISCUSSION: **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** said the next issue is expansion of services for 44 individuals. **Mr. Smith** said the expansion is for 44 slots in the Vocational Rehabilitation Extended Employment Program. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** asked for a detailed description of what happens to the 44 individuals. **Mr. Smith** said funds pay for job coaches and support services for ongoing employment in either a sheltered workshop, such as Helena Industries, or a supported work environment in the community. **Mr. Melcher** said the Extended Employment program provides training so that clients can go back to work.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY asked how there is a \$7 return for each \$1 spent to get a person back to work. **Mr. Mathews** said the figure comes from the National Rehabilitation Association's federal rehabilitation reporting statistics. There used to be a \$15 return for each dollar spent. The drop is attributed to escalating medical costs. **Ms. Robinson** said the cost for each client at the Montana Developmental Center in Boulder ranges from \$60,000 to \$90,000. Anytime someone can return to work, there is a tremendous return on the state's investment.

Mr. Smith said the subcommittee's action regarding the DD waiting list opened up opportunities for a number of people. The 44 are not on the DD list, which is why the Vocational Rehabilitation Extended Employment program needs to be expanded.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY asked if a person must be reasonably employable to be accepted into the program. **Mr. Smith** said yes. Employment expectations are limited for individuals in the Vocational Rehabilitation Extended Employment program. Once a client gets into the program, employment is long-term and virtually permanent. **Ms. Robinson** said the traditional Vocational Rehabilitation model has used federal matching money and been

time-limited. The proposed \$228,000 per year is all General Fund money and can follow the client. There is no federal match.

SEN. WATERMAN asked how much is paid for the seven inappropriately placed individuals at Warm Springs. **Ms. Robinson** said she didn't know. That group probably wouldn't fit into this program. She assumes they need more intensive care. It is possible this population is misplaced because of the lack of services.

SEN. KEATING asked what waiting-list individuals do to survive. **Mr. Smith** said he didn't know. Of the 118 individuals, 60 of them are developmentally disabled and the other 58 have other disabilities. Usually these individuals are at home with family and not working, or are in nursing homes.

SEN. KEATING asked if the people on the waiting list have been screened and deemed eligible for services. **Mr. Smith** said yes. **Mr. Mathews** said some of them move out of the Extended Employment program into full-time gainful employment in the community, or other programs, which frees up Extended Employment slots. **SEN. KEATING** asked if any of them ever become self-sufficient. **Mr. Mathews** said yes. Many of the jobs they get pay minimum wage. Some remain on other benefit programs, such as social security, and can retain some of their Medicaid and Medicare benefits. Few get high-paying jobs.

MOTION: **SEN. WATERMAN** moved to fund 44 positions, at whatever it costs over the biennium.

DISCUSSION: **Ms. Robinson** said the cost is \$228,000 per year, or \$456,000 over the biennium. **SEN. KEATING** said he wants to see expansion in the program but he doesn't know if the state can afford the half-million dollar investment.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **SEN. KEATING** moved to fund 22 positions.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **REP. COBB** moved to fund 58 slots.

DISCUSSION: **REP. COBB** said he wants to fund all 58 slots to eliminate the waiting list. These people are the most needy. The money could come from other budgets.

SEN. KEATING said he is willing to support **REP. COBB's** motion if the subcommittee is willing to battle other subcommittees that are appropriating money for less important projects and if this subcommittee will establish priorities to spend the money where it is most needed.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY said she is hesitant on **REP. COBB's** motion. She knows he wants to revisit the DD program. The subcommittee cannot assume it can pull money from other budgets. Each decision has to stand on its own as part of a whole governmental system. Problems cannot be solved overnight. The Legislature has tried to increase

services as much as possible with available dollars. The money isn't available this year. She has a problem putting together a budget that is going to get lambasted by the full Appropriations Committee.

SEN. KEATING said he thinks some state money is being irresponsibly spent. DD programs should have priority over others. Money is being wasted in education. **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** said there will be an opportunity to remove money from education or elsewhere when the budget goes to the Senate Finance Committee. The SRS budget has always been respected. She doesn't want it to be perceived as a budget buster.

Tape 3A

REP. COBB said he doesn't think this subcommittee should have to do the dirty work alone and deny waiting-list proposals. He intends to try to change the budget to fund the whole waiting list. If, in the end, money has to be raised, that's a solution. He realizes he may put **CHAIRMAN BRADLEY** in an awkward position. Everyone always agrees these people are the most needy but no one ever wants to serve them. He plans to ask the Department of Labor to fund some of the Vocational Rehabilitation costs.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY said she would like to postpone action on the matter until **SEN. NATHE** returns so that he can vote on the issue.

REP. COBB read language that calls for SRS and the Office of Public Instruction to design strategy for providing transition planning for special education graduates so that their services continue into adulthood. He said he's not asking for any money.

EXHIBIT 18

SEN. WATERMAN said the planning needs to begin with families when the children are in middle school. Often parents assume services will be available for their children after they graduate. School districts are as responsible as other agencies for not having helped plan the continuum of care.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY directed the subcommittee to address No. 3 on the last page of **EXHIBIT 4**.

MOTION: **REP. COBB** moved approval of language that permits the transfer of benefits between Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously 5-0. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE VISUAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Votes were taken on issues in **EXHIBIT 16**.

MOTION: **SEN. KEATING** moved approval of the 1.0 FTE for the rehabilitation teacher.

VOTE: The motion **PASSED** unanimously 5-0. **SEN. NATHE** was absent.

Exhibit 19 consists of a three ring binder entitled "Medicaid Program Descriptions". The entire exhibit is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

MOTION: SEN. WATERMAN moved approval of the LFA budget for operations, plus rent.

VOTE: The motion PASSED unanimously 5-0. SEN. NATHE was absent.

MOTION: SEN. KEATING moved approval of the executive level in benefits.

VOTE: The motion PASSED unanimously 5-0. SEN. NATHE was absent.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY said financial information about provider-rate increases, including implications for the General Fund, is listed on EXHIBIT 17.

MOTION: SEN. KEATING moved a 5 percent provider-rate increase.

VOTE: The motion PASSED unanimously 5-0. SEN. NATHE was absent.

Ms. Robinson distributed binders on the Medicaid Program. EXHIBIT 19.

CHAIRMAN BRADLEY asked subcommittee members to discuss their budget decisions with their caucuses. She said the budget must be well-defended. REP. COBB said the subcommittee is telling the administration that this should be funded. He won't surprise her on the House floor. He will let her know in a few days what is happening. CHAIRMAN BRADLEY reminded REP. COBB that he submitted 56 amendments to cut the budget four years ago. She doesn't want to be the one defending it when everyone is doing that. SEN. WATERMAN said she understands what REP. COBB is saying and she agrees. The subcommittee owes CHAIRMAN BRADLEY a commitment to find out if there is party support for what is being done. Subcommittee members need to get a sense of where priorities are. Additional revenue may need to be raised. This budget should be a top priority and be funded out of existing money. Additional money should be raised to finance other items that are not top priorities.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:35 a.m.



REP. DOROTHY BRADLEY, Chairman



FAITH CONROY, Secretary

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 2/1/91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. JOHN COBB	✓		
SEN. TOM KEATING	✓		
REP. JOHN JOHNSON	✓		
SEN. DENNIS NATHE	✓	LEFT EARLY	(Before Votes)
SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN, VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. DOROTHY BRADLEY, CHAIR	✓		

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2-1-91
HB. Num. Serv. Sub.

WAITING LIST B
JANUARY 31, 1991

Developmental Disabilities Division
Department of SRS

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SOME SERVICES WHO
NEED MORE APPROPRIATE SERVICES

***** CHILDREN *****

SERVICE	NO. OF INDIVIDUALS	BIENNIAL COST	G.F. COST
*Specialized Family Care	45	1,023,030	286,448
Respite Care	128	132,608	132,608
Family Training	97	567,450	567,450
*Supported Work	22	171,160	157,604
Adult Habilitation	24	261,888	241,146
*Adult Home/Supported Living	32	540,032	497,261
Transitional Living	12	135,792	135,792
Children's Home	19	896,154	250,923
Independent Living	3	19,488	19,488

***** ADULTS *****

SERVICE	NO. OF INDIVIDUALS	BIENNIAL COST	G.F. COST
*Supported Work	200	1,556,000	1,432,765
*Adult Home/Supported Living	147	2,480,772	2,284,295
Transitional Living	63	712,908	712,908
Adult Habilitation	65	773,890	712,598
Adult Habilitation-Fee Base	55	600,160	600,160
Senior Day Services	29	293,306	82,126
Senior Group Home	37	676,064	189,298
Independent Living	47	305,312	305,312
Respite	14	14,504	14,504

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2-1-91
HB _____

Exhibit #2
2/1/91
Human Serv.
Sube.

01-Feb-91
WHATIF

WHAT WOULD IT COST TO FUND:

	Average Cost	# To Be Served	Annual Cost	Biennial Cost	Biennial G.F.
30 SFC SLOTS	11,367	30	341,010	682,020	190,966
50 SUPPORTED WORK SLOTS	3,890	50	194,500	389,000	108,920
50 SUPPORTED LIVING	8,438	50	421,900	843,800	236,264

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2-1-91
#B. _____

2/1/91
Human Serv.
Subc.

February 1, 1991

**Montana Association for Rehabilitation/Montana Association of
Rehabilitation Facilities.**

Testimony Presented to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Human
Services.

By Jim Smith--MAR/MARF Lobbyist.

Vocational Rehabilitation/Extended Employment Benefits
Page 133 of the SRS 1993 Biennium Budget Narrative.

Madame Chairman, Members of the Committee; My name is Jim Smith and
I'm before you this morning representing the Montana Association for
Rehabilitation (MAR) and the Montana Association of Rehabilitation
Facilities (MARF).

MAR is an Association of individuals who are professionals in the field of
Rehabilitation. They are employees of SRS, of private rehabilitation
companies operating in Montana, and professionals in private practice,
such as Speech or Occupational Therapy.

MARF is an Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, better known perhaps
as 'sheltered workshops,' although that term is an inadequate descriptor
of the range of activities and services being provided today in Montana's

Rehabilitation Facilities. These Facilities are located throughout Montana. They provide a wide range of services to citizens with a variety of disabilities: people with developmental, physical, learning disabilities as well as the mentally ill and the industrially injured are the clients of the Rehabilitation Facilities in Montana. The types of services provided include: Vocational Evaluations, Work Adjustment, Home and Personal Adjustment, Work Experience, On-the-Job Training, placement in Competitive Employment, and placement in Extended Employment at the rehabilitation facility itself, *OR in a sheltered supported employment slot.*

At the outset I would like to express the support of these two organizations for the Executive Budget. It is clear to us that the Governor has made a strong commitment to Human Services in his budget, and we thank him for that.

I would also like to express my personal opinion that whatever the outcome of this session is, in terms of policy and funding, the SRS budget and the agency itself is in good, capable hands with Julia Robinson as the Director of the agency; and with the management team she has assembled over the last two years.

From my perspective, morale among the employees of SRS has never been better.

I believe that Ms. Robinson has infused the agency with a renewed sense of mission and purpose; that she has set forth achievable goals and objectives; and that she has not hesitated to establish priorities and to make difficult choices. She has articulated all of this to you in a clear and concise way these last several days, and I, for one, have been most impressed with the presentations.

The presentations you heard this morning from Ms. Robinson and Joe Matthews are no exception. I believe they explained very well the mission and purpose of Vocational Rehabilitation in Montana: "to promote choices and empowerment for people with disabilities and to assist them to achieve employment, independence and integration into the work place and the community by providing services through responsible administration of the state/federal rehabilitation program."

I would like to highlight and reemphasize a few of the points already made by Julia and Joe:

- The Voc Rehab system serves individuals with all types of disabilities, including but not limited to developmental disabilities. I think it is important for the Committee to realize that there is a very precise definition of 'developmental disability;' and that there are other kinds of disabling conditions. There are physical disabilities that result from injury or accident. Often these types of occurrences result in a lost limb, or in the loss of function, such as blindness. Other times these injuries result in traumatic brain injury. In yet other instances a traumatic brain injury can occur due to cerebral hemorrhage, stroke or aneurysm. These are 'head injured.' We have touched on this type of disabling condition a few times this week. This is the fastest growing group of people with severe disabilities in this country. There are disabilities that result from injury or accident at the workplace, and which are compensable through the Workers Compensation system. There are severe learning disabilities. There are mental illnesses. There are people who are blind, visually impaired; people who are deaf or who are hearing impaired. All of these conditions fall outside the definition of a 'developmental disability.' The Voc Rehab system can and does provide services to people with all of these conditions, as well as to individuals who have conditions defined as 'developmental disabilities.'

- Eligibility for Voc Rehab or Visul Services is based on two criteria: 1) the individual must have a disabling condition that constitutes a substantial handicap to employment; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation that the rehabilitation services provided will enable the person to be employed.

- The state/federal matching relationship is a very favorable one for Montana. Voc Rehab is funded on an 80% federal, 20% state basis. Thus, every dollar the state invests in this program is matched by four federal dollars.

- There is an excellent return on this investment. National and state statistics demonstrate that for every dollar spent providing rehabilitation services to a client, seven dollars are returned to the economy once that client joins the work force. That ratio became part of the economic fabric in Montana for roughly nine hundred (900) people with disabilities in 1990.

- In the entire catalogue of 1500 federal domestic assistance programs, Voc Rehab and Head Start were the two that received the greatest increases in funding during the entire decade of the 1980s.

- The Vocational Rehabilitation Act is being reauthorized this year in the Congress. Throughout the 1980s, the progams authorized by this

Act grew in spending authority and in actual appropriation each year. We anticipate a continued federal commitment to this program in the 1990s. The Congress funds programs that work, and Voc Rehab is at the top of the list.

With that in mind, let me raise three issues for the consideration of the Committee.

- First, the funding relationship between Vocational Rehabilitation and the Workers Compensation system. As the members of this committee know, during the 1980s we did all kinds of things to balance the budget.

One of them was to substitute Workers' Compensation Trust Fund dollars for the General Fund dollars needed to administer the Voc Rehab program.

Referred to pg. 898 of LFA analysis, pg 120 in the SRS bjt.

Changes in the Workers' Compensation law enacted in 1987 have impaired the ability of SRS to access these dollars. In a nutshell, Work Comp is referring, or certifying, fewer and fewer cases to SRS for Voc Rehab services. There will be further revisions to the Work Comp law proposed and acted upon during this session. While the ultimate effect of these bills on Voc Rehab is not known at this time, the prognosis is not good. The general fund portion of the Voc Rehab budget is made up largely of these Work Comp funds. That budget is predicated on the belief that there will be just enough funding to access minimal federal dollars. It is

predicated on the assumption that Work Comp will make no new referrals to Voc Rehab during the biennium. Voc Rehab will continue to access those dollars only through cases that have already been referred, and which are still in progress. The very real possibility exists that Voc Rehab will not be able to match all of the federal funds to which it would otherwise be entitled due to the lack of state matching dollars.

Clearly, by 1993 a better way must be found to fund this program. Ms. Robinson has indicated that this issue will be among her highest priorities during the next session, and we thank her today for that commitment. I would like to offer the full support of MAR and MARF to her in that effort. The Associations are also eager to work with Julia and Joe Matthews during the interim on this critical issue.

- Second, as the Committee knows the Executive Budget does not include a cost-of-living adjustment for the non-medical fee-based providers that do business with SRS and Voc Rehab. This group includes the Rehabilitation Facilities. They are, if you will, 'Un-COLA' in the Executive Budget.

Your positive action yesterday in this area is to be commended, and I thank you for it. I ask you today to take the same positive action with regard to the Rehabilitation Facilities. As you know, there is no 'Boren Amendment'

protecting these facilities; and we are not threatening the state with a lawsuit over the issue. We are asking that you grant these facilities a 5% cost-of-living adjustment during each year of the 1993 biennium.

I was struck yesterday by the remarks of Bill Wound, the Fiscal Director at Helena Industries. You'll recall perhaps that Bill came to Helena Industries from the private sector, where 'profit' is the measure of the success and efficacy of one's work. Bill stated that in the public sector it is the quality of the services provided that gives meaning to the work we do and definition to words like 'success.' Well, during the long decade of the 1980s, as we lived with budget cuts, reductions and freezes, it was the quality of the services we provide that suffered. For awhile we did more with less, we became better managers and more efficient operators; we even took some pride in that during the early years of the decade.

However, in my view, the point of maximum efficiency was reached and the law of diminishing returns took over some time ago.

It is time to begin to rebuild these programs, to renew our commitment to quality services to the people we serve and to rekindle in ourselves the sense of pride in the work we do, which suffered greatly during the last ten years. We can begin to do this today with a positive action by the Committee regarding a COLA for the Rehabilitation Facilities.

- Finally, I would like to address the issue of the Waiting List.

Another thing that subtly happened during the 1980s is that we--and I mean all of us--began to think of these waiting lists as though they themselves were some kind of program. "Is your child on the waiting list?" "Oh, good. She'll get services someday." Or, "he's not. Well, let's get him on it."

A waiting list is not a program. It is a waiting list. It's no substitute for services. It never will be, and we must shake ourselves out the the erroneous perception that it is.

In addition to the people on the DD Waiting List, there are other individuals, with other types of disabilities, on waiting lists.

Voc Rehab has identified 118 people who could be served through the Voc Rehab/Extended Employment Program. That program is described on page 133 of your SRS Budget Narrative. Basically, VR/EE is a program of 'extended employment' for persons who are not able to move into the competitive labor market, but who can work in either a sheltered or a supported employment setting with proper, ongoing supports.

Of these 118 individuals, 60 are presently on the DD Vocational Waiting List; but the other 58 are not eligible for DD services because their disabilities are not developmental. Many of these individuals are the 'head

injured.'

We're asking this morning that you increase the VR/EE budget by approx. \$228,000 each year of the biennium. This will enable 44 people to move from the limbo of a waiting list into sheltered or supported employment. The VR/EE program is 100% general fund, and its current level is approx. \$281,000 per year. The Executive Budget funds this program at its current level. Thus, we are asking for a substantial increase. We know it's substantial; and we thought long and hard before coming to you today with this request. But if we do nothing this year and during this session, this human deficit will continue to mount, the waiting lists will continue to grow, we may never be able to serve these people, and worst of all, we may even quit trying. *Referenced to pg. 135/342 w/11 narrative*

This is the year to do something about the waiting lists. The VR/EE is an *AN ADDITIONAL* ideal mechanism to do so. I urge you to appropriate ~~✓~~ \$228,000 per year to the Voc Rehab Extended Employment Program, in order to provide an employment opportunity to 44 individuals with disabilities.

Madam Chairman, these are the three issues we wanted to bring to your attention today. I thank you for the opportunity to do so. More important, I do thank you for your willingness to lead and to serve the citizens of our state. The citizens are well served. In my opinion, the

Montana Legislature is as good as government gets in these United States, and this Subcommittee has emerged as a truly great institution withⁱⁿ the Montana Legislature. I've watched this committee for most of a decade now. It has always been a bi-partisan, hard working group. It has been in the forefront of policy development, it has not hesitated to make the hard choices, it has been a true safety net for thousands of Montanans. The committee this session is no exception. It has been a pleasure to observe this subcommittee, and it is an honor to participate in the process.

Madam Chairman, there are individuals here today who would like to share with you the positive difference Vocational Rehabilitation has made in their lives. Many of these people have become taxpayers thanks to this program, and there are others who soon will be, once their rehabilitation is complete. Thank youⁱⁿ advance for the attention I know you will give to these people, and for your consideration of the requests we are making today.

Budget Item	Actual Fiscal 1990	Executive Fiscal 1992	LFA Fiscal 1992	Difference Fiscal 1992	Executive Fiscal 1993	LFA Fiscal 1993	Difference Fiscal 1993
FTE	75.90	74.00	74.00	.00	73.50	73.50	.00
Personal Services	1,916,622	2,003,180	2,002,280	900	1,990,244	1,990,244	0
Operating Expenses	458,160	491,017	440,427	50,590	464,059	413,145	50,914
Equipment	15,861	11,432	11,278	154	11,432	11,278	154
Benefits and Claims	5,562,258	5,893,507	5,850,051	43,456	5,893,507	5,850,051	43,456
Total Expend.	\$7,952,901	\$8,399,136	\$8,304,036	\$95,100	\$8,359,242	\$8,264,718	\$94,524
Fund Sources							
General Fund	848,936	982,210	969,381	12,829	980,832	968,327	12,505
State Revenue Fund	726,767	721,980	700,267	21,713	721,585	700,190	21,395
Federal Revenue Fund	6,377,198	6,694,946	6,634,388	60,558	6,656,825	6,596,201	60,624
Total Funds	\$7,952,901	\$8,399,136	\$8,304,036	\$95,100	\$8,359,242	\$8,264,718	\$94,524

10

PAGE REFERENCES:

LFA Current Level Analysis Reference: B 98-99
Executive Budget Summary Reference: 129
Executive Budget Narrative Reference: 120-138

EXECUTIVE AND LFA CURRENT LEVEL DIFFERENCES

Operations:

	Executive (Under)Over LFA	1992	1993
1) Inflation	(8,730)	(8,730)	(8,172)
2) Non-D of A Rent*	7,894	7,894	7,894
3) Base Difference	51,426	51,426	51,192
Total Difference	50,590	50,590	50,914

* Should be added to LFA current level

Benefits: LPA and Executive Benefit levels have been reconciled and adjusted downward at SRS's request. Benefit levels should be:

	1992	1993
	5,700,048	5,600,048

EXECUTIVE BUDGET MODIFICATIONS:

	Biennium
JTPA Federal funds, Operations	30,000
JTPA Federal funds, Benefits	50,000
Total	80,000

Items for Subcommittee discussion:

- 1) Provider rate increases?
- 2) Service expansion?
- 3) Language permitting transfer of benefits between Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services

Madam Chairperson and members of the committee I want you to know that we are seeing and serving people with severe head injuries. The fact of the matter is that we are not doing enough. Please give your support to this extended employment expansion. Thank you.

conduit for these individuals becoming successfully employed, in many cases in integrated community-based settings. The individuals who would receive these services would not be eligible for services through the developmental disabilities system. They would be individuals who have conditions such as traumatic head injuries, learning disabilities and, in some cases, mental illness. Some of these individuals such as those with head injuries have no other sources for vocational services other than these extended employment opportunities. Specifically on their behalf, I request your affirmative consideration of these service expansions.

For your consideration, national statistics indicate that approximately 2 million head injuries are occurring each year and that this number has been steadily on the rise. Of these 2 million injuries 500,000 will require hospitalization and long-term follow-up. What this means is that approximately every 15 seconds someone is sustaining a head injury in this country. How these incidence rates apply to Montana is difficult to say. It is interesting to note, however, that the occurrence of head injury has been strongly and positively correlated with locations where alcohol consumption is prevalent, strong penalties for drunk driving have been or are lacking and seat belt laws are absent or relatively new. All of these conditions have been or are problems in Montana. The fact that we don't have strong data regarding head injuries is indicative of the head injured person's problem. We tend to ignore problems that we aren't dealing with.

and referral to extended in-house employment. The particular services provided depended on the assessed needs of each individual.

During the past year twenty-seven individuals were placed in competitive employment. These 27 workers will earn approximately \$251,000.00 during thier first year of employment and will pay approximately \$37,000.00 in taxes. The workers who remained employed at Helena Industries during the past year earned approximately \$143,000.00 and payed approximately \$17,000.00 in taxes. I think you can see, from these figures, that our vocational training programs and other like them through out the State turn individuals into givers to the system, not merely takers. But of equal importance, they give the individuals we serve a sense of pride and self-sufficiency that can only come through the ethics and discipline of training for, obtaining and maintaining a real job.

I thank this committee for the important role you have played in helping us perform our mission. Without the resources you appropriate for services, it would be impossible for us to do our job. For as much as you have done, however, I am here to encourage you to do more. Earlier Mr. Smith proposed to you that funds be allocated to serve 44 additional individuals in VR's extended employment program. These individuals will be given the opportunity to enter vocational services simialr to those I have described throughout the State. These services can be the

Exhibit #5
EXHIBIT 5 2/1/91
DATE 2-1-91 Human Serv
HE _____ Sube .

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TESTIMONY
HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

Madam Chairperson and members of the committee, for the record my name is Wally Melcher and I am the President of Helena Industries. Helena Industries is a Vocational Training organization that serves individuals who are vocationally handicapped. The ultimate mission of our organization is to see our clients gainfully employed in the least restrictive environment possible. It is also our goal to present our clients with vocational options that allow them the freedom and dignity of choosing, as much as possible, their own job and place of employment. To accomplish these objectives, we provide our clients with a variety of real work tasks to perform within our facility while they are learning the skills and attitudes necessary to be competitively employed. When they are prepared and if it is their choice, we assist our clients to find and maintain employment within the Helena community. These community placements usually involve assigning a job coach who gives the individual specific training in order to perform the new job and, when necessary, on-going counseling to help him/her adjust to the new work environment.

Last year we served 305 vocationally handicapped individuals at Helena Industries. Of this number approximately one third came to us through the Developmental disabilities system and the other two thirds through the Vocational Rehabilitation system. These individuals received services ranging from vocational evaluation

Madame Chairman & members of the committee, for the record my name is Lee Graham. I am the store manager of Safeway here in Helena. Our store currently employs several individuals who came to work for us through a Supported Employment program funded by the Vocational Rehabilitation Division. We have been working with the Vocational Rehab program for 5 years now. Our original hired employees are still with us today. Others have come & gone but over the years we have employed approx 10 individuals from the program. I feel very strongly that the program is good for both the individual and the employer. For the individual, it gives them a sense of a chievement by working among others in the real working world. These individuals, as does everyone, thrive on accomplishment but to them it means even more. They work very hard to please their employers and are willing to do any thing that is asked of them. they are

very well liked by their fellow employees and the public alike. For example, I don't get more compliments ^{on any one item} than I do for Melody, one of our Courtesy Clerks - the customers love her and she loves them. ^{By having Melody was the 1st one we hired.} From the employers standpoint, it gives us a sense of pride that we are able to help these individuals work with & among the public. It also shows other employers what these individuals ~~can do~~ ^{are capable} of ~~invites them to give the program and~~ ^{invites them} to support the program by hiring these individuals.

In regards to training the individuals from the Rehab program, the program's counselors are very helpful. They come & work with the employee for as long as they are needed.

When the employee is trained, the counselor continues to come in to check on the ~~and~~ employee while on the job & work with them when necessary. They also keep in close contact with the employer ~~and~~ in order to see how the employee is

progressing & whether any additional help is needed, I personally have been very pleased with the employees I have hired from Helena Industries and the support received from the staff. What more can an employer ask for, as we receive dedicated, hard working employees, help in training those employees, & a favorable reception from most of the public. After employing these individuals for over 5 years, I can tell you that it has been wonderful & that there aren't any more dedicated employees than the individuals from the vocational rehab program. And, yes, we do sometimes run into minor problems but what employer doesn't have problems from time to time with employees. As I see it, the benefits of hiring these individuals far outweighs the negatives.

* So in closing I would like to thank the committee for supporting vocational rehabilitation programs and ask that you give every consideration & support for the current & future program requests that are before you in the legislature today.

* In ~~regard~~^{respect} to Safeway as a company, ^{in the next} ~~these studies~~
~~that have been done~~ decade we will be looking
at labor pools that are under utilized - these
being the handicapped & senior citizens. These
studies Safeway has found that the handicapped
are the most loyal, most dedicated, & most
efficient employees. They are also found to have
the highest moral among employees. So as
a company Safeway will be looking very closely
at hiring employees from this pool.

Madam Chair, members of the committee. On any other day, I am Sharon Miller, Assistant Vice President of Vocational Services for Northern Rocky Mountain Easter Seals in Great Falls. Today, however, I play a different role, the voice of Chris Olson, the young lady you see beside me. Chris is unable to speak, but is able to think clearly and communicate through a hand-held communicator or a computer. She has provided me with her testimony which I will read for you.

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 2-1-91

Exhibit
#7
2/1/91
Human
Services
Sub C

Hello there, my name is Christine Lee Olson, but you can call me ¹³Chris. I am 26 years old. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself, so this is my story.

In 1976 I was 13 years old when I was in a hayride accident. I was pushed from a moving hayride and I sustained many head injuries. I knocked out my teeth, cut up my forehead, fractured my skull and I was unconscious for a number of days. I also received a leg injury. Basically the muscles were twisted. The doctors weren't sure I would ever walk correctly again. To correct all of these problems took a number of operations through my Junior High School years. I overcame most of my physical injuries and led my life as close to normal as possible. I walked through my high school years normally. I graduated from high school in 1982.

In the following year, January of 1983, I decided to take a trip to Phoenix, Arizona. I found a job as a secretary for a magazine called CABLEDAY. I had a super, good roommate. Basically I was having a ball! Then my roommate left to come back up to Montana to marry the dentist she had been dating. I finally settled down with my boyfriend in an apartment in 1985.

One night I was out dancing with a friend of mine. While out on the dance floor, I suddenly felt this loud explosion inside of my head. I didn't faint but I did have quite the headache. (That's an understatement!) I went home and took a short nap, but the pain never left. I knew that when Joe got home he would have to take me to the hospital. He did that when he got home. The explosion that I felt inside of my head really was an explosion of nerve cell endings, better known as a (AVM), Arterial Venial Malformation.

I had an operation to correct this. They tied up the nerve cell endings that had exploded. At the end of this operation, I had the opportunity to get better. I still wasn't completely healed up so they flew me back to Great Falls, and I had a second surgery. During this operation I had an aneurism that exploded in my head causing the left side of my body to become paralyzed, taking away my speaking abilities, and I had to be fed by machine because all of my swallowing abilities were no longer with me. I was in rough shape. Because I couldn't speak, hand and sign languages were becoming my best friends. Unfortunately, it's hard to communicate and most people who saw my totally degenerate physical body assumed I was totally mentally degenerated as well. I was treated like I didn't have a brain in my head. I was truly depressed.

I soon after that was moved into the DSNC (Deaconess Skilled Nursing Center). I was twenty-two years old at this time. Boy oh boy, it is depressing to see grammas all over the place. Especially ones who can't do much for themselves and have to rely on others to do everything for them. The poor old folks just sit there and shake their heads—like, oh that poor young creature. And the nurses just shake their heads, I couldn't even tell you what they are thinking. But at the time I moved in they treated me more like a vegetable than a person. There was not much to do at DSNC except, if you like to play bingo.

One afternoon Shelley Oksness was out and about checking for new clients for the Adult Day program at Easter Seal and she had dropped by to see me. We couldn't communicate all that well so she came back with a hand-held communicator, and Mrs. Kris Kleinschmidt also of Easter Seals. I actually talked to real people for the first time since my operations. Somebody could actually see that I had a brain. I was then close to 24. I was soon accepted into the Adult Day program, to my benefit. We got to be close in this program. Other people in this program weren't any better off then I was as far as my physical abilities are concerned. But they were closer to my age group and were fun to be with. We did all sorts of things. We went bowling, river rafting, and did ceramics. We also did some cooking, and just went out for the afternoon to the mall.

And boy, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, I cannot emphasize to you much more than to let you know what that in itself does to a person's morale. It sent mine on a definite upward swing. Life was now tolerable to deal with. There were still some people who judged me by my physical appearances but at least I had the opportunity of having someone there willing to give my mental abilities some sort of a try.

EXHIBIT

DATE

2-1-91

-Bum New Sub.

After I was in Adult Day program for a short period of time, they soon learned that what I did in Phoenix as a secretary might just come in handy for working in the future. They recognized that I had potential to do more than recreate, that I may be able to work and make a living someday. So the Easter Seal staff referred me to Vocational Rehabilitation. My counselor, Chuck Leggate, also recognized that I had the ability to do more than socialize. He enrolled me in the Extended Employment Program. Thanks to Chuck and the VR program I soon got a computer, equipped with Word Perfect 5.1 and a special software program for nonrepeating keys. I also have a word expansion program that allows me to type in one letter and get a complete word and I have the ability to make banners. I work as an administrative assistant to a wonderful young lady from Easter Seals who goes by the name of Mrs. Vicki Stull. She has taught me how to use my computer to do basic typing such as manuals and mailing labels. I am typing 20 words per minute (that's not too bad, being one-handed and all), and I am earning a paycheck for the hours per week I am able to work.

My hopes and goals for the future aren't quite yet settled down.

1. I'd like to move into my own apartment and out of the old folks home that I'm at right now.
2. I'd like to get married and give out all of this love that I've accumulated so long.
3. I'd like to start my very own business dealing with advertising or tele-communications using my computer.
4. I'd like to contribute to a house for folks like myself to reside in that has plenty of access to and from transportation and help with personal care and household chores.

I'm grateful to Voc Rehab not only for the money used to purchase my computer and provide Extended Employment Services, but also for caring enough to spend the time and the money to recognize my potential and give me the opportunity to be productive again.

Madam Chair Bradley, Senator Waterman, ^{Sen} Representative Keating, Senator Nathe, Representative Cobb, and Representative Johnson, please keep in mind that Chris is one of the lucky ones who occupies an Extended Employment slot. There are more than ¹⁰⁰ 50 people in Montana who could utilize these services, but for whom money is not available. Chris and I are urging you to provide the funding needed to continue quality VR services in Montana and to expand the number of Extended Employment slots so that more people like Chris can be encouraged to and assisted in reaching their potential.

Exhibit #8
2/1/91
Human Services
Subc.

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2-1-91
-3-

To: Subcommittee

From: Greg Engellant

Date: February 1, 1991

(Mr. Chairman)

(Madame Chairman) and members of the committee, my name is Greg Engellant. I was in a major farming accident which resulted in a traumatic brain injury. It left me unconscious for six weeks and two days. As a result of the injury, I remained in the hospital for one year and a quarter. Upon leaving the hospital, I attended a cognitive remediation program in Missoula for six months. During this time the expectations of me recovering was minimal. I eventually accepted for services at Helena Industries. My time at Helena Industries was very beneficial. Without their help I would not be here today. My memory, my ability to stay on a specific skill, adjust to new situations, control my temper and remember names, instructions and be able to talk to you as I am today was not possible when I started at Helena Industries. I've learned to plan ahead more so than I ever dreamed I could. My brother says I've learned to plan ahead to much. I've learned to carry a memory book with me to write down my appointments and daily reminders to be more competitive in my independent living and at work. If it wasn't for Vocational Rehabilitation providing the opportunity to work at Helena Industries, I wouldn't have been given the opportunity to work for the Department of Administrations in the supportive work program. They were instrumental in my return to the work force. My injury made my college education useless for employment. I am proud to be a part of the labor force. In summary, it is important to note that without the assistance of Vocational Rehabilitation and Helena Industries, I would not be here to speak to you today. Thank you.

2/1/91

Human
Services
Subc.

PAGE 9

DATE 2-1-91

43

In adome chairman & members of the committee
my name is Larry Bennett.

I work for Helena Industries, in the
Mail Shop & what I do is Seal books for
the Montana Travelers Permiotion & I label for
different company's & I do some stapping.
to learn the job is that I was taught
was to listen very carefully & pay attention
to what they had to say about the job
I feel very comfortable ~~at~~ at Helena Industr
they have helped me alot & there great
people, very understanding. I don't know
where I would be if I didn't work
at Helena Industries, cause it gives
me a chance to learn & it gives me a
chance to meet people & that is what I
like & that is what we need. I want to
Thank the committee for all the help I
have received thanks again

2/1/91

Exhibit #10

EXHIBIT 10

2/1/91

DATE 2-1-91

Human Serv.
Subc

MADAME CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
FOR THE RECORD,

My name is John Cummings. I started Extended
Employment in March of 1990. ^{I work for Opportunity Industries in} Before I started ^{the wood shop}
working, my life was boring. I watched a lot
of TV and didn't do much. I had worked for
a short time in 1986 as a janitor in a school.
I didn't feel like I was ready to work again
until March when I started at Opportunity
Industries. I am happier now because I have
a job and friends I can talk to. I have
learned to work within a schedule of time.
My supervisor tells me exactly what to do
and I do it. I feel more responsible.
I am doing something in the community instead
of staying home and watching TV.

Thank you.

Exhibit #11

Madam Chairman and members
of the Committee, my name is
Patricia Andress

Human
Serv.
Subc.

2/1/91

I work at Carroll College Cafeteria.
I work in the dish room, ~~serve~~ serve
people dinner at night and on Sat,
nights, I work on Pots + Pans, I have
a Job Coach lady that comes with
to work and helps me learn my job
better... It makes me feel great to
have a job because, I'm earning extra
money to be with my friends and
buy extra necessities I need.
When I work it makes me feel great
also because my co-workers and →

EXHIBIT
11
2-1-91

Supervisors come up to me to ask
how I like working there and if I'm
doing ok.

Thank you Please support
the Programs like Helena industries
Supportive employment

EXHIBIT 11
DATE 2-1-91
HB

EXHIBIT 12

DATE 2-1-91

Exhibit # 18

2/1/91

Human Serv
Bulge.

Madame Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel Flachmeyer. I am currently employed by Hendrickson Court Reporting, here in Helena, where I do copying, binding and delivering of transcripts, as well as other things. I work part time, one to five, Monday through Friday.

I enjoy working, and I have to thank the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and Helena Industries for the Work Adjustment Program I've received. Without it, I wouldn't be employed today.

And, I must thank you, the Committee, for your help and ask you to continue to support the programs like the ones that helped me so they can continue to help people like me. The programs do work, so I hope you will continue to support them.

Thank you.

2/1/91

Human Serv.
Subc.

February 1, 1991

EXHIBIT 13
DATE 2-1-91
HB

Madam Chairman, committee
members, for the record

✓
My name is Arlene Barnard and I have been
in Extended Employment for 3 years. Before
I started my life was dull and uninteresting.
I had no options or things to occupy my
time. Before I started working I didn't
have much stamina. I'm now able to work the
full work shift. I feel good when I work.
I have more things to live for. My life
has turned around and is fuller and more
interesting with things to do. I strive to
make my life more productive. I am more
willing to make something of myself. I am
very happy and content with the work I am
doing.

I WORK FOR OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIES AS A JANITOR AT THE
FEDERAL BUILDING
IN MISSOURI

Thank you.

EXHIBIT 14
DATE 2-1-91
HB _____

EXHIBIT # 14
2/1/91
Human Serv
Subc.

Madam Chairman For the record my name is ~~PAUL~~ Brockus.
Costs over past year.

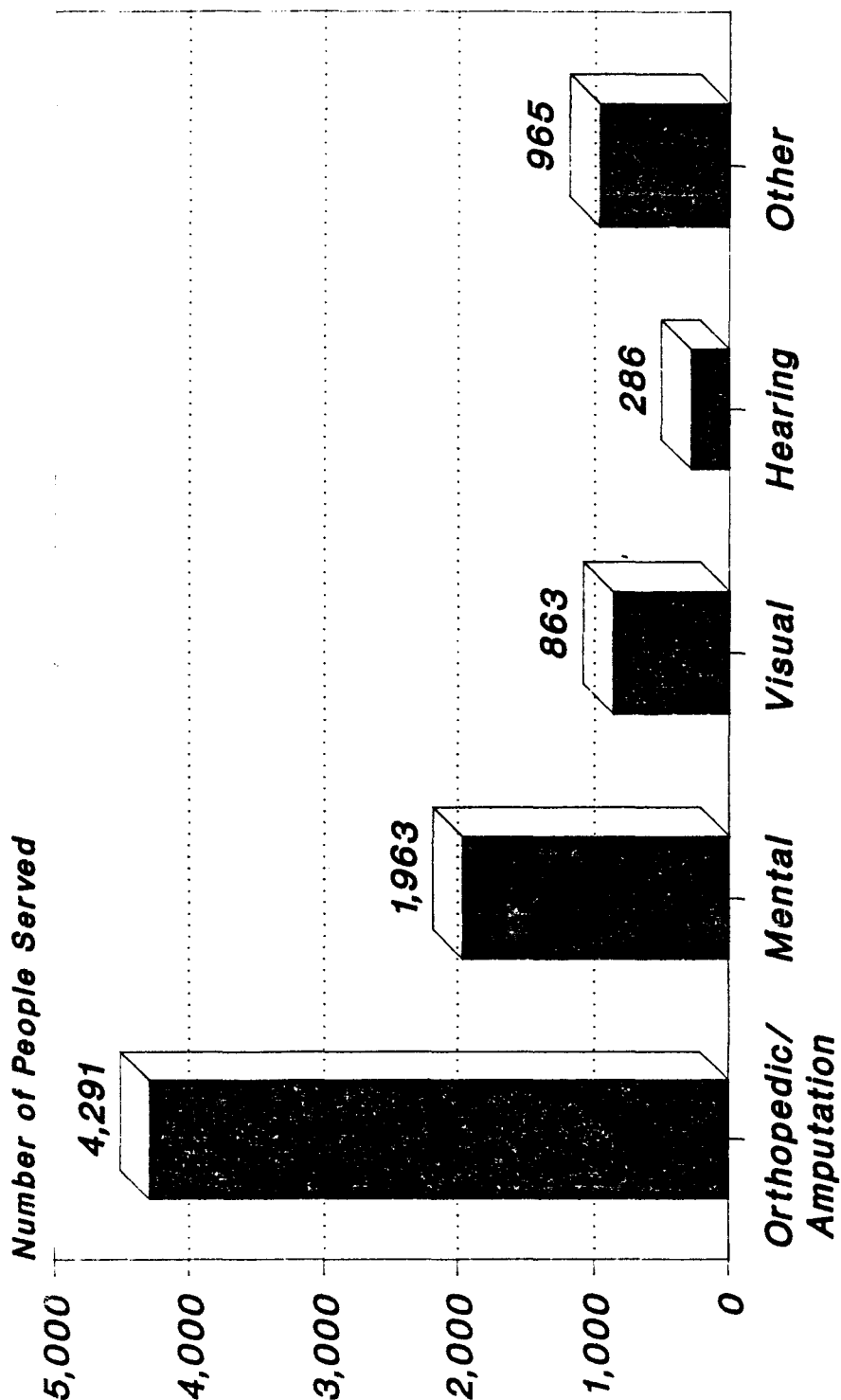
I wish to address the fact noted on previous
findings for the CR Service ~~expended~~
also over the past 2 yrs.

First increase in past 7 yrs.
w/et p/ptn develop - ~~change~~ wages & bonuses - abating to ~~the~~ trainee.
we have had to pay off. -
Combine ~~off~~ -

Vocational Rehab./Visual Services

People Served by Type of Disability

FY90

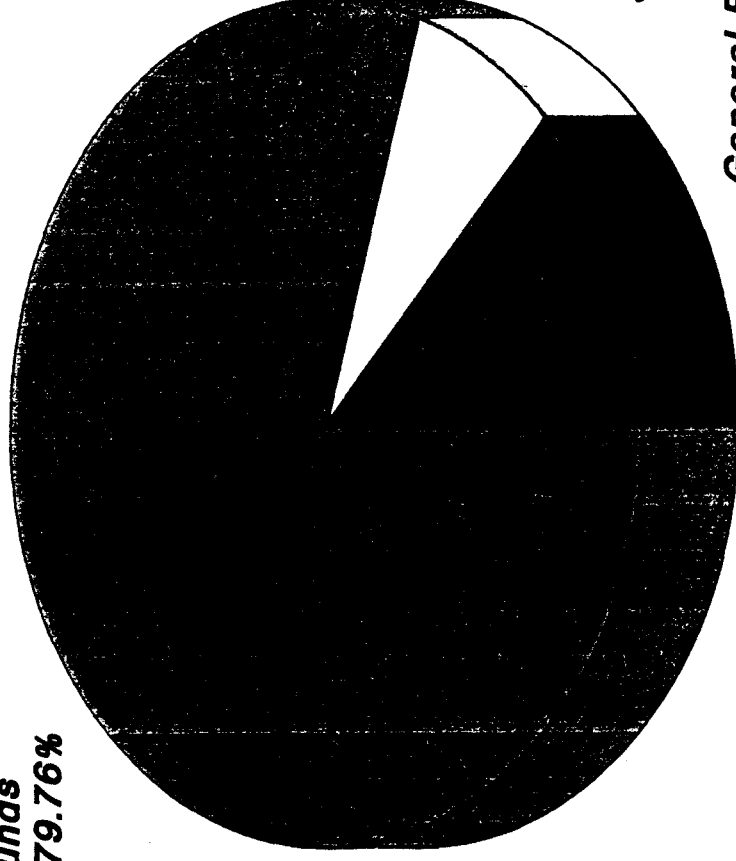


15
DATE 2-1-91
HS

EXHIBIT # 15
2/1/91
Human Serv
Subc

Vocational Rehab./Visual Services FY91 Appropriations

***Federal Funds
\$7,770,446 79.76%***



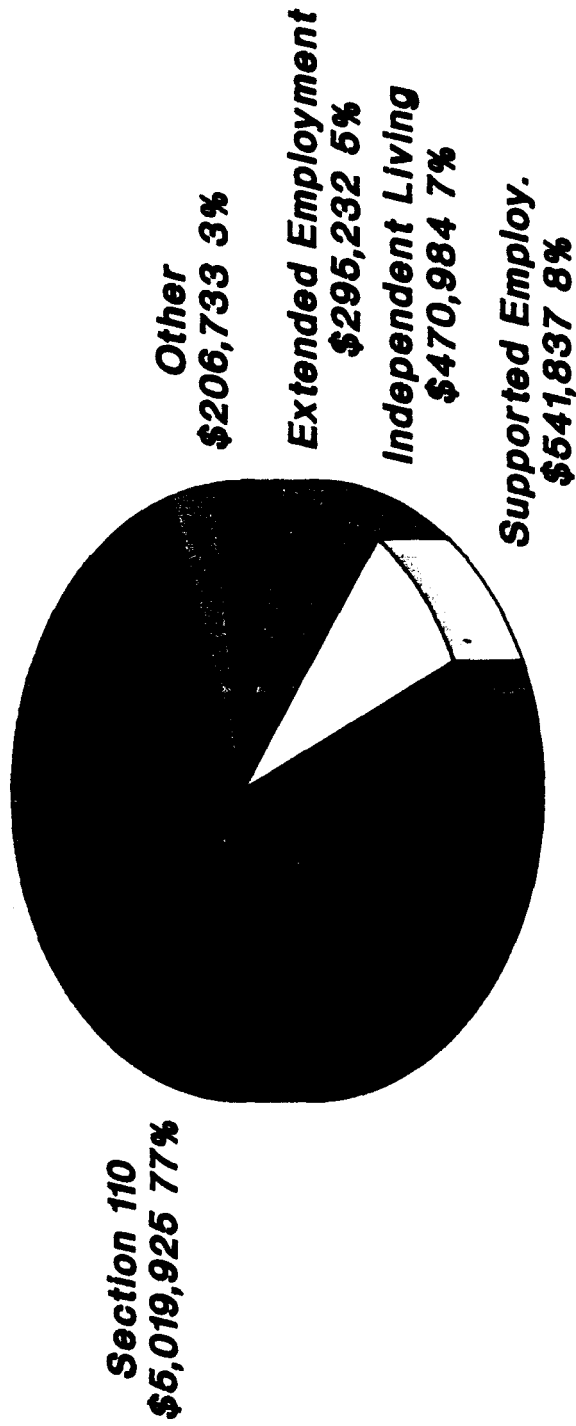
***Workers' Comp.
\$726,698 7.46%***

***General Fund
\$1,245,605 12.78%***

Vocational Rehab./Visual Services

Total Benefits -- \$6.5 Million

FY91



Notes:

1. Section 110 includes Section 110, W.C., JPTA, Soc. Sec.
2. Supported Employment includes Title VI and MSSED
3. Independent Living includes Parts A and C.
4. Other includes Migrants and Visual Services Medical

15
2-1-91

Budget Item	Actual Fiscal 1990	Executive Fiscal 1992	LFA Fiscal 1992	Difference Fiscal 1992	Executive Fiscal 1993	LFA Fiscal 1993	Difference Fiscal 1993
FTE	18.80	18.75	17.75	1.00	18.75	17.75	1.00
Personal Services	424,226	510,947	485,177	25,770	510,655	484,945	25,710
Operating Expenses	105,528	113,910	107,965	5,945	113,610	107,217	6,393
Equipment	9,149	9,129	9,129	0	9,129	9,129	0
Benefits and Claims	671,489	641,204	616,784	24,420	641,204	616,784	24,420
Total Expend.	\$1,210,392	\$1,275,190	\$1,219,055	\$56,135	\$1,274,598	\$1,218,075	\$56,523
<u>Fund Sources</u>							
General Fund	259,710	286,861	271,910	14,951	286,743	271,714	15,029
Federal Revenue Fund	950,682	988,329	947,145	41,184	987,855	946,361	41,494
Total Funds	\$1,210,392	\$1,275,190	\$1,219,055	\$56,135	\$1,274,598	\$1,218,075	\$56,523

13

PAGE REFERENCES:

LFA Current Level Analysis Reference: B 101
Executive Budget Summary Reference: 130
Executive Budget Narrative Reference: 142-153

EXECUTIVE AND LFA CURRENT LEVEL DIFFERENCES

Personal Services: LFA Eliminated One Position

1.0 FTE Rehabilitation Teacher Vacant 7/1/89 through 9/21/91

Operations:

	Executive (Under)Over LFA	1992	1993
1) Inflation	(427)		21
2) Non D of A rent*	2,624		2,624
3) Base Difference	3,748		3,748
Total Difference		5,945	6,393

* Should be added to LFA current level

EXHIBIT 16
2-1-91

EXHIBIT = 16
2/1/91
Human Serv
Subc.

Benefits: Base differences only

Items for Subcommittee discussion:

- 1) Provider rate increases?
- 2) Service expansion?

Exhibit # 17

2/1/91

Human Services
Subc.

Provider Rate Increases--1993 Biennium
Vocational Rehabilitation

EXHIBIT 17
DATE 2-1-91
AB

Percent Increase	-----FY 92-----			-----FY 93-----		
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Total Funds	General Fund	Federal Fund	Total Funds
1%	11,545	44,435	55,980	28,156	84,362	112,518
2%	23,091	88,869	111,960	56,595	169,564	226,159
3%	34,636	133,304	167,940	85,312	255,606	340,918
4%	46,182	177,738	223,920	114,310	342,486	456,796
5%	57,727	222,173	279,900	143,587	430,207	573,794

Jan. 31, 1991

Provider Rate Increases--1993 Biennium
Visual Services

Percent Increase	-----FY 92-----			-----FY 93-----		
	General Fund	Federal Fund	Total Funds	General Fund	Federal Fund	Total Funds
1%	1,601	4,812	6,413	3,217	9,671	12,888
2%	3,201	9,623	12,824	6,467	19,439	25,906
3%	4,803	14,434	19,237	9,748	29,301	39,049
4%	6,403	19,246	25,649	13,061	39,261	52,322
5%	8,003	24,057	32,060	16,406	49,317	65,723

Jan. 31, 1991

10
DATE _____
RE _____

2/1/91
Human Services
Subc.

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Office of Public Instruction will design a strategy for the provision of transition planning for students preparing to graduate from special education that will provide for continuity of services as they move from school into services for adults with disabilities. A report will be submitted to the 1993 Legislature.

go to Legislative Council) HB _____

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR REGISTER**

Human Services SUBCOMMITTEE DATE 2/1/91
DEPARTMENT(S) SRS DIVISION _____

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	REPRESENTING	
Jarvis May	DDO/SRS	
Phyllis Lee	VR/VS	
Joe A. Mathews	Voc. Rehab/Visual Services	
Cris Volinkaty	DD Lobbyist	
Jordan Filz	DD LOBBYIST	
Kathy McEwan	MCNHC/MRCCA	
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
Alex. Ridd	Visual Services	
Barbara Wolcott	" "	
Mary Benson	" "	
Laurie Quill	" "	
Breggy Engellant	Helena Industries	
Jim Smith	MAR/MARF.	
Chris Lee/Sharon Miller	Feather Seal	
Peggy Williams	VR/VS	
Verby Merritt	St Falls Visual Services	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR REGISTER**

Human Services SUBCOMMITTEE DATE 2/1/91
DEPARTMENT (S) SRS DIVISION _____

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	REPRESENTING	
Pat Dommie	Visual Services - Beetle Mt	
Marty Onushuk	Mon AMI	
Wallace Melcher	Helena Industries	
MIKE KELLY	FLATHEAD INDUSTRIES / KALISPELL MT	
E.L. Rohloff	M A B	
Bernice Dettas	Visual Services - Bozeman	
John Dettas	Visual Services - Bozeman	
Della Koehler	Visual Services - Bozeman	
^{Darvin} W. H. Brockway	Easton Marten Ind. Miles City	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

Exhibit 19 consists of a three ring binder entitled "Medicaid Program Descriptions". The entire exhibit is available at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)