

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

9
Tue Feb 8 2005



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GOVERNOR

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To: Rep. Christine Kaufmann, Chair
Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

From: Shirley K. Brown, M.A., J.D. *Shirley K Brown*
Administrator, Child and Family Services Division

Re: Follow-up from Executive Action
February 2, 2005

Date: February 4, 2005

During Executive Action on the Child and Family Services Division, we committed to provide the Subcommittee follow-up information on three issues. Therefore, please be advised as follows:

1. You asked that we follow-up with the Klepzig family after testimony from Ms. Klepzig and Kaitlyn on Tuesday regarding the lack of funding for the expense of traveling to Salt Lake City for treatment related to Kaitlyn's medical condition. We have contacted Ms. Klepzig in response to your request to determine if any resolution to the issue can be identified.
2. Sen. Weinberg inquired as to the actual amount of federal dollars expended on the social work stipend program with the University of Montana and Salish Kootenai College. In State Fiscal Year 2004 total expenditures for the two programs were \$1,196,938.
3. Rep. Morgan asked that we research to determine if the same funding used for the stipend programs could be used for the colleges or the Department to hire a specialist to attend "Career Days" at high schools to recruit high school seniors into the stipend program. We have researched this and the funds cannot be used for that purpose. Based on Rep. Morgan's question, the Division's Management Team will be discussing the feasibility of developing a brochure discussing careers in child protective services and disseminating the brochure to high school counselors. I would like to note, however, that in general the issue related to hiring social workers is not the lack of qualified individuals but the inability to hire additional staff.

I hope this information adequately responds to the queries of the Subcommittee. I want to thank the Subcommittee for the members' interest in and support of child protective services. Please let me know if additional information is required.