

February 15, 2005

Senator John Cobb
State Capitol
Helena MT 59620

Re: SB 249 – Require coordination for addiction treatment between Correction and DPHHS

Dear Senator Cobb:

Upon your request to review the current fiscal note for SB249, the Addictive & Mental Disorders Division's Chemical Dependency Bureau has reviewed all components and funding needed to develop the infrastructure for a comprehensive chemical dependency outcome based prevention and treatment system.

All components, of the Division's original request for chemical dependency infrastructure development, are still needed for this comprehensive system. Through this review, the Division has been working with Federal funding sources to identify and possibly obtain funding for components of the requested system. The following are our prioritized unfunded needs for which, at this time, we have not identified a potential funding source :

1. Our highest priority for this bill is to develop a comprehensive chemical dependency treatment system in coordination with the Department of Corrections. If any funding requests from this Division will jeopardize the intent of Senate Bill 249, we will continue to seek other funding sources to address the identified unfunded components.
2. The Division's prioritized unfunded components:
 - a. Needs Assessment of Current Treatment Needs: \$ 50,000
This is a one-time cost to allow Montana to identify services currently provided and gaps in the current treatment system.
 - b. Evaluation and Quality Management \$ 100,000
This is a continuous process to improve the system and ensure performance measures and outcome based treatment practices are effective.
 - c. Training \$ 50,000
In order to implement the coordinated system with the Department of Corrections, training of providers in both Departments will need to occur to ensure continuity of services. This amount could possibly be moved to second year funding.

The need continues to exist to fund chemical dependency treatment in all modalities and agencies. The Division believes coordinating with the Department of Corrections in developing this comprehensive treatment system will allow continuity of services and provide for better outcomes of the people we both serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (406) 444-3969.

Sincerely,

Joyce DeCunzo, Administrator
Addictive and Mental Disorders Division