



EXHIBIT 18
DATE 2/4/2011
HB _____

Mister Chair and Members of the subcommittee, my name is Emily McVey, I am the Director of Montana Youth Homes in Helena, MT. Montana Youth Homes is a member of the Montana Children's Initiative.

- Housing
- Homelessness Assistance
- Head Start
- Rocky Mountain Preschool
- Montana Youth Homes
- LIEAP
- Weatherization
- Energy Share
- Community Mental Health Services
- Our Place Drop-in Center
- Kids Management Authority (KMA)
- Compeer Helena
- Area IV Agency on Aging
- Daily Dinner Clubs
- Senior Centers
- Meals on Wheels
- Foster Grandparent Program
- RSVP
- Senior Companion Program
- Senior Transportation

Montana Youth Homes has roots in Helena, MT dating back to 1974. Programs include the Jan Shaw Youth Home for girls, Margaret Stuart Youth Home for boys, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Holdover Program, Youth on Track to Adulthood Program and Supported Independent Living Program.

MYH is dedicated to providing a safe environment in which youth learn, grow and adjust to life outside their family homes. Youth from across Montana are referred by the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Youth Courts, Community Case Managers and families. At MYH youth have access to supportive staff 24-7, they attend school, work, treatment, recreational outings as well as learn Independent Living Skills and practice healthy relationship skills with staff and peers. Montana Youth Homes is Helena based and is a program of Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.

In 2010 Montana Youth Homes served 18 youth referred from the Department of Child and Family Services. These referrals make up 26% of the youth served at Montana Youth Homes and therefore 26% of the funding we receive from the state to provide shelter and group home services to youth.

In the next 5 years, more than 50 central Montana youth will "age out" of the Foster Care system. Many of these youth are not prepared for all of the changes adulthood brings and they enter adulthood without a positive adult support network. To help ensure these youth are prepared for adulthood Montana Youth Homes has collaborated with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide programs to youth who are clients of Child and Family Services. This collaboration allows Montana Youth Homes to case manage and support youth after they turn 18 and are removed from foster care. This program starts before the 18th birthday for youth living in the Montana Youth Homes programs. These youth take part in the Youth On Track to Adulthood program which teaches a variety of independent living skills ranging from how to do chores to budgeting to home repairs. This is an essential program for ensuring a positive future for our youth. Funding for the Child and Family Services division is vital to continuing this program and the other programs of Montana Youth Homes.

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the subcommittee.

JAN SHAW YOUTH HOME — MARGARET STUART YOUTH HOME

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