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**Presentation to Appropriations Committee February 7, 2013**

**Child and Family Services Division, DPHHS**

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1. On the back is another chart showing the rate for non-Medicaid youth group homes and you can see that, again, rates have not kept up with the cost of living nor the funding for state services that have been funded based upon something called "current law" which I have found hard to find a definition for.
2. Regardless my point is that rates that were not healthy in 1995 and based more about saving money than any study of needed services and actual costs we are now behind that funding in 1995 by an amount of over \$88,000 for a single group home serving adolescents.
3. Youth Homes was founded in 1971. We serve many youth from the state's child protection services effort. These are the most heart wrenching stories with youth who have never been dealt a good hand. And we are fully committed, regardless of what the results of this appropriation, to give them every chance to have their 1<sup>st</sup> chance at a happy and successful life. It is always our goal to reunite families and, that failing, to find a substitute family that will provide everything a family should for their children.
4. We operate Youth Homes and our Partnership for Children throughout Western Montana with local programs in Hamilton, Missoula, Ronan, Polson, Kalispell and Helena and accept youth from all over Montana.
5. Through the Child and Family Services Division we contract to provide shelter and long term group care and work with all of their youth who are aging out of state foster care living in Western Montana – about 75-100 at any one time.
6. Our mission is to serve the neediest and poorest Montana families by providing each of them "stability, a sense of belonging and a place to call home."
7. The folks who work for the Child and Family Division are among the most committed and concerned workers I meet and they take on the most difficult cases and are hammered from every direction. Turnover is not good. Morale is not strong. But I have complete faith in leadership from Sarah Corbally to our Regional Administrator, Nicole Grossberg to the Supervisors and the line workers. They truly need your support and they, truly, need more staff to better respond to children at risk in a timely and thoughtful way. Please support added positions on their front line as our most vulnerable kids will be better for it.

State Foster Care Prigram Rates  
 Comparisons to COLA  
 FY 95 - FY 13 = 18 years  
 7-Feb-2013

Provider Rates	Rates over 18 years - Fiscal 95 through Fiscal 13						
	FY '95 Actual	FY '13 Actual	Actual % Increase	Rate Adj to COLA	% behind COLA	Amt Lost to COLA	Amt lost per client/year
Therapeutic Group Care	\$ 190.00	\$ 224.98	18%	\$ 294.33	-24%	\$ 69.35	\$ 25,313.69
Youth Group Home	\$ 107.34	\$ 134.14	<b>25%</b>	\$ 166.28	-19%	\$ 32.14	<b>\$ 11,731.98</b>
						8 Bed Home	<b>\$ 93,855.84</b>

Costs for common items in budgets		
Health Insurance per individual	\$ 64.82	\$ 294.15
Gallon of gas	\$ 1.079	\$ 3.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 19,604.00	\$ 86,591.00
Utilities for 1 group home	\$ 3,511.50	\$ 4,625.00
Starting hourly pay for Line Counselor	\$ 6.75	\$ 10.00
Agency Therapist	\$ 13.00	\$ 20.96

Note: Percentage Increase in COLA since 1996 = **54.9%**

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