

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on **February 3, 1999** at 8:02 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Sen. Arnie Mohl, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Rep. Stan Fisher (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)
Rep. Red Menahan (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Skip Culver, Legislative Branch
Mary LaFond, OBPP
Linsey Mortensen, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s): Department of Corrections
-Community Corrections
Executive Action: Department of Justice
(Forensic Lab)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Motion/Vote: SEN. MOHL moved to RE-OPEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously.
{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.5 - 1}

Motion: SEN. MAHLUM moved to ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROPOSAL FOR THE FORENSIC LAB. EXHIBIT(jih27a01)

Discussion: Skip Culver explained the numbers in exhibit 1.

Larry Fasbender discussed the construction of the building, and answered committee questions on the contract.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 1 -10.5}

Rick Day, and Becky Buska answered questions from yesterday and tied up some loose ends on some issues. EXHIBIT(jih27a02)

EXHIBIT(jih27a03) EXHIBIT(jih27a04)

Committee questions answered.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 12.5 - 22.4}

Greg Noose and Rick Day answered committee questions on MLEA training.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 22.4 - 32.4}{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 9.6}

HEARING ON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS)

Skip Culver commented on the Community Corrections Division of the Department of Corrections (D-62 - D-78). He stated that there was eight programs(bureaus) within the division.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10.5 - 12.5}

Mike Ferriter, administrator of community corrections, discussed the responsibilities of the division, the bureaus within the division, and some of the budget requests. EXHIBIT(jih27a05)

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 15.8 - 26.6}

SEN. SHEA asked what independent living is. Mr. Ferriter replied that it is a proposal they plan to move forward in the next legislative session. He explained the program.

SEN. CHRISTIAENS made comments on a program with Family Alliance.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 26.6 - 28.6}

JUVENILE PLACEMENT UNIT

(tan section in EXHIBIT 5)

Mike Ferriter introduced John Paradise and gave a brief background of John.

John Paradise, unit manager for the juvenile placement, described what the bureau is responsible for, discussed the programs they implement, and went over the budget requests.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 28.6 - 31.6}{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 7.5}

Committee Questions and Responses

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked about the coordination between agencies (Office of Public Instruction, Department of Family Services, Department of Corrections). **Mr. Paradise** was not sure how to answer the question.

REP. FISHER asked what the idea is behind the Aspen Youth Program and how do kids get into it. **Mr. Paradise** explained.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.5 - 14.3}

Discussion on the cooperation between agencies.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14.3 - 23.2}

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked if there is affiliation between the department and the Rebound program. **Mike Ferriter** replied that there is no contract between the two.

REP. FISHER commented on the Rebound program.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 23.2 - 25.7}

Mike Ferriter discussed the pilot project. **EXHIBIT(jih27a06)**

INTERSTATE COMPACT

Introduction of Connie Perrin, deputy compact administrator.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25.7 - 28.7}

(purple section of EXHIBIT 5)

Connie Perrin described the interstate compact for the supervision of adult and juvenile probationer and parole offenders, and stated her responsibilities.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 27.4 - 32.4}{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.2 - 7.1}

Riverside Youth Correctional Facility

Introduction Jim Bauch, director of the Riverside Youth Correctional Facility.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 8.4 - 10.8}

Jim Bauch discussed the history of the facility, the programs implemented, capacity of the facility, the cost per day of each individual, and the budget requests.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10.8 - 29.6}{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 11.1}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses

REP. FISHER asked what support do they get from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). **Mr. Bauch** replied that they have had a lot of support and have had great work relations with OPI.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 11.1 - 12.9}

SEN. MAHLUM asked what similar out of state programs charge. **Mr. Bauch** explained the numbers.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 12.9 - 14.6}

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked about the Aspen contract and the costs associated with it. **Mr. Bauch** replied that the cost per day should go down.

(discussion on cost per day)

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14.6 - 18}

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked if they have looked at tying the Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) program in with their program. **Mr. Bauch** replied that they have talked to some people and are working on getting kids into the program.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18 - 21.7}

SEN. MOHL asked how many females are out of state. **Becky Buska** replied that there is 10 females out of state and the cost is about \$170 per day. **Jim Bauch** commented on the girls out of state. **SEN. MOHL** asked if they could go over 20 girls total at the facility. **Mr. Bauch** replied that they would not like to double bunk the girls. (he explained further)

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 21.7 - 25.8}

Discussion on 14% increase in personnel services.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25.8 - 27.8}

Comments by Mike Ferriter about Jim's presentation.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 28.8 - 32.4}{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 1.3}

TRANSITION CENTERS (PINK SECTION IN EXHIBIT 5)

Introduction of Cheryl Hoffarth, unit manager for women's pre-release contracts and programs.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1.3 - 3.1}

Cheryl Hoffarth described what a transition center is, what the benefits are, and where they are.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 3.1 - 14}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked what watchman system is. **Ms. Hoffarth** replied that it is a security system. (discussion about education for the kids)

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 14 - 16}

CHAIRMAN VICK asked what the difference between a positive and negative discharge. **Ms. Hoffarth** stated that a positive discharge is a youth that has gone on to a foster family, returned to a nuclear family, or on to an independent living program and has successfully completed the program. A negative discharge is someone that has not responded to the program and they have returned to a more secure facility.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 16 - 17.4}

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked if they keep track of how many urine samples are done randomly. **Ms. Hoffarth** replied that she does have numbers on the drug tests.

SEN. MAHLUM asked where there drug tests are done. **Ms. Hoffarth** replied that they do spot checks and are processed well enough to stand up in court.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 17.4 - 19.2}

Wrap-up on transition centers.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 19.2 - 21.8}

Rick Day wrap-up on the days presentations and follow-up on some questions.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 21.8 - 30.5}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:28 A.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

LINSEY MORTENSEN, Secretary

SV/LM

EXHIBIT (jih27aad)