

1. Standardize contracts between all entities instead of having each division develop their own specialized contracts. This would save time and trouble on the part of all parties.
2. Eliminate group home licensing or eliminate this portion of the jobs that DDP field staffs engage in.
3. Compare the number of FTE's in the Developmental Disabilities Program with neighboring states. I think that you will find that we have way more state staff compared to neighboring states. It would be easy to compare how many staff we have compared per client compared to other states. The state is too top heavy and has too many employees. We have one FTE devoted to overseeing our program out of the Missoula office. That office has at least four staff that do quality assurance reviews of programs in this region that included one program in Hamilton, three in Missoula and us. There are also some smaller mom and pop operations as well. A comparison could be drawn with the mental health system that has no regional oversight for a system that has way more clients.
4. Streamline auditing processes – we are audited by seven different auditing entities.
5. Review the process by how employees who retire are able to return on contract.

# AMPHO

Association of Montana Public Health Officials



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

September 3, 2010

Dear Senator Wanzenried and Members of the Interim Finance Health and Human Services Sub-Committee:

As you take on the difficult examination of budgetary options for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services contained within the Reference Book, we thought it would be helpful for you to hear from Montana's local public health officials who are often on the front-line of serving Montanan's likely affected by your decisions.

Being managers of local public health budgets, we are clear-eyed about the current fiscal situation. Our comments are aimed at sorting out the most essential services from the many beneficial services under review. In that light, we have identified **three critical yet low-cost public health investments that must be retained in order to forestall future entitlement program expenses and outbreaks of contagious disease.** Specifically, we ask that you:

- 1) Retain optional Medicaid **targeted case management services for pregnant women (page 21 of the Reference Book).** This very small portion of Medicaid funding provides partial reimbursement for local public health nurses who intervene with high-risk pregnant women in order to improve the incidence of healthy newborns. Most of the women served are Medicaid recipients and their newborns will be as well. Providing case management services for these women during pregnancy improves their nutrition and other healthy behaviors; increases earlier access to prenatal care; reduces their use of alcohol and tobacco -- all of which reduce the likelihood of costly and vulnerable, low-birth weight babies.
- 2) Retain the mix of general fund allocation along with fees for **Montana's public health/environmental laboratories (page 10).** Should these critical laboratory services be diminished via funding by fee structure only, we will not be able to identify and stop the spread of foodborne and contagious diseases early enough to prevent potentially life-threatening outbreaks. Faced with more fees, local jurisdictions, medical providers, and potentially contagious patients may forego a lab analysis that may not be necessary for patient treatment, but is essential for protecting other Montanans from contagious disease.
- 3) Retain general funds supporting the **food and consumer safety bureau (page 13);** **furthermore**, we strongly caution against any action that further reduces the share of license fee revenue that goes to local jurisdictions. As evidenced in HB 331 testimony of the 2009 session, license fee revenue is inadequate and local taxpayers already bear the vast majority of the costs of these state mandates. Doing so jeopardizes other important local public health programs. The costs and funding of these state mandates are under review by the Legislative Auditor. In this age of large-scale foodborne outbreaks, we need to retain the tools at all levels of government to protect people from foodborne illness.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and can provide more specifics as you require.

Sincerely,

Ellen Leahy, Health Officer  
Missoula City-County Health Department  
(406) 258-3882  
leahye@ho.missoula.mt.us

Barbara Schneeman, Communications/Advocacy Director  
RiverStone Health  
(406) 651-6420  
Barbara.sch@riverstonehealth.org

Erin McGowan Fincham, AMPHO Executive Director  
(406) 443-1570  
emcgowanfincham@mt.net

July 30, 2010

The Honorable Amy Carlson  
Montana Legislative Branch  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Director Carlson:

I am employed with Bee Hive Homes Assisted Facility of Missoula, and we provide housing for both the elderly, as well as those with traumatic brain injuries. The rate of reimbursement for those residents who utilize the Montana Medicaid Waiver are significantly less than the rates a private pay resident is required to pay.

Nevertheless, we accept those on the waiver program as there is a great need for quality housing options for all peoples of this community, including the financially needy. These residents receive the same level of care, are provided the same amenities, and are able to utilize the same level of service (transportation, outings, activities) as those who have no need of the waiver. Reducing the funding for this program would significantly affect the number of Medicaid eligible residents who would we would be able to accommodate, primarily due to the already large discrepancies in the reimbursement rate.

Please reconsider eliminating these increases in living allowances to those served by our tax dollars through the Medicaid program. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Casey Massena  
TBI Director  
Bee Hive Homes Missoula  
2406 River Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804

RECEIVED

August 2, 2010

AUG 02 2010

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter as a case manager for people with physical disabilities, a former caregiver, and a daughter who lost her 48-year-old dad in a nursing home.

It is difficult to pick out one or even a few of the proposed cuts as each will have such a significant impact on vulnerable populations.

Eliminating Assisted Living and Group Home rates-we, as case managers, already struggle with finding housing for some of the individuals we work with. We are already pushing these providers to their maximum. If housing is unavailable then they are forced into nursing home placement or warm springs which is higher cost for the state than if they were to live in a lower care facility.

Reducing the Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance-I cannot believe this is even of discussion. Living on \$50/month is already challenging. It is our job as case managers to help these folks be active in the community and have a fulfilling life. Aside from personal needs they would like to go to a baseball game, swim, go to the movies, attend a concert, etc. \$50/month does not cover what their true needs are.

Freeze Medically Needy Income Level-It is these folks that most have worked hard a good portion of their lives and paid into the system that suffer. They would have been financially better off had they not worked and now receiving SSDI or pensions after suffering from a tragedy or illness. They need the insurance, Medicaid, but in doing so and having such a large spenddown it leaves them with hardly the ability to pay for rent in their own apartment, they are having to find roommates. In this economy how is somebody supposed to live off of \$645? Spenddown is confusing terminology, I encourage you to reach out to some of those who have a spenddown to see how it effects them.

Eliminate Optional Medicaid Services-If this is to take place then what is the plan to help people pay for dental, eyeglasses, PT, Speech, etc?? Many of the folks we serve would chose to go without because they do not have the funds to pay and that would put them at higher risk of nursing home placement which again would cost the state more money.

Eliminate Additional Support of the Community Waiver Services-Again, I encourage you to look at how many individuals are on waiting lists and to visit with some of them. Most people, especially my deceased father, did not want to be housed in a nursing home. When he was able to receive Home and Community Based Services and live in his own home he looked beyond his suffering from ALD and he had hope and did what he could to have a fulfilling life. Remember, there may come a time you are fighting tooth and nail to stay in your own home and that is what this service is all about.

Thank you for your efforts and dedicated work.

Sincerely,



Cris Fleming Bloxom, BSW  
[cbloxom@communitymed.org](mailto:cbloxom@communitymed.org)  
406-360-4809

JUL-21-2010 23:20 FROM:WSM INC

3072370870

TO:Community Medical P.2/2

Dear Members of the Legislative Finance Committee,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my nephew, Dustin Overgaard, his family and all others that your proposed budget options will affect.

Dustin was injured in a ski accident in February of 1998 and his lifestyle completely changed. The accident occurred at Bridger Bowl in Bozeman where Dustin was skiing for the day with a friend. It was just one of those freak accidents. It left Dustin with a closed head injury, the loss of use of his left side and in a wheelchair. Prior to this accident Dustin was attending college in Bozeman. He was paying for his own college and working to be able to do this. When registered at MSU he paid for the insurance coverage, but in 1998 Dustin was taking a semester off because he needed to work full-time to save up money for tuition. By doing this, when he had his accident he no longer had insurance and thus put Dustin in the situation that he needed state assistance. Dustin was 27 at the time and on his own. His parents are not financially or physically able to care for Dustin.

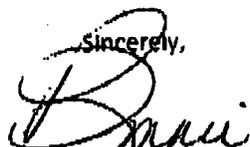
Rather than give you a ton of statistics or go through the whole boo-hoo routine I would encourage you all to visit your constituents whom the cuts will directly affect and see for yourself. The monies people with disabilities who are at home, in a group home or in a special facility receive are not remotely close to sipping champagne; it is more like rot gut beer.

I noticed there are two state senators on the committee from Missoula; Senator Carol Williams and Senator Dave Wanzensried. I would ask you to go visit Dustin at his apartment and the facility where he goes during the day. Dustin is at the Bridges/Opportunities complex in Missoula. Dustin's apartment, which he shares with another disabled person, is 2075 Cooper Street Apt 413 in Missoula. Take a look around and see if these individuals can afford the reductions that are on your agenda for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

I know Missoula is not the only place with facilities for people with various degrees of disability. With that being said I would encourage all of you on this committee to visit facilities in your area or around the state before making any decision on these proposed reductions. I know times are tough, but sometimes we need to bite the bullet and look at other areas to cut that won't affect those that can't help themselves.

Thank you for your time. Thank you for your service to the State of Montana.

Sincerely,

  
Bonnie M. Foster

Jul 30 10 03:58p

Bonnie Kolden

406-728-8675

p.1

**PLEASANT VIEW PERSONAL CARE, INC,**

**4322 West Central Ave.**

**Missoula, M T 59804**

**406-728-8675**

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 02 2010**

**LEGISLATIVE  
FISCAL ANALYST**

Dear Representative,

RE: Legislative Finance Committee Meeting on Monday August 2.

I am writing in regards to the rate reduction for Medicaid Providers. This reduction will make it harder to provide the services and care for the residence. The cost of food, electricity, and other living expenses are continually going up.

The other concern I have is to implement a provider fee. I feel that it will make it harder for Medicaid residents to be accepted into assisted living homes. The company is already paying taxes on the income from Medicaid residents.

I hope you will consider these when you are voting.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Kolden, Owner/Manager

07/30/2010 14:20 14065439645

ERIN HEITZMAN

PAGE 02/02



RECEIVED

AUG 02 2010

LEGISLATIVE  
FISCAL ANALYST

July 30, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am employed with Bee Hive Homes Assisted Living Facility of Missoula, and we provide housing for both the elderly, as well as those with traumatic brain injuries. The rate of reimbursement for those residents who utilize the Montana Medicaid Waiver are significantly less than the rates a private pay resident is required to pay. Nevertheless, we accept those on the waiver program as there is a necessity for quality housing options for all people in this community. These residents receive the same level of care, are provided the same amenities, and are able to utilize the same services (transportation, outings, activities) as everyone who resides at this facility. Reducing the funding for this program would significantly affect the number of Medicaid eligible residents that we would be able to accept, primarily due to the already large discrepancy in the reimbursement rate. Our private pay residents see no less than a \$50.00 increase in rent from year to year simply due to the cost of living increases. Please reconsider eliminating these increases in living allowances to those served by our tax dollars through the Medicaid program.

Respectfully,

Erin Heitzmann, Bee Hive Homes, Missoula

## Daumiller, Marilyn (LEG)

---

**From:** Montana Youth Leadership [mylfjune@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 02, 2010 7:37 AM  
**Cc:** Daumiller, Marilyn (LEG)  
**Subject:** Finance Committee

Legislative Finance Committee Members;

As you deliberate today on the proposed cuts for the upcoming session, I would like to ask that you remove the Transition Coordinator from that list of proposed cuts.

We believe that this one of the most cost effective items that you can fund.

Youth with disabilities is the largest minority in Montana schools currently at approximately 17% of our schools population, there are 15,668 youth with disabilities between the ages of 6-19 in our schools.

Montana has not addressed the issue of transition for these young people in any sustainable way. We have developed a web site that is being paid for by the partners that sponsor the site and have been able to secure enough funds to sustain the site for another eight years. The site does need to have someone administer the site, which this position has done. We have a number of stories of individuals who have found the site extremely helpful in a number of areas. The site can be seen at [www.montanayouthtransitions.org](http://www.montanayouthtransitions.org)

Additionally we have developed regional meetings to allow those invested in the topic of transition to meet on a regional level and develop strategies for the goals that are set. In the first round of meetings we had sixty-one people in attendance including teachers, human service professionals, youth with disabilities, and parents. This networking would not take place without a coordinator. The costs for participants to attend is absorbed by the participants but the facilitation, record keeping and administrative tasks are done by the Transition Coordinator.

2010 will also be the first year of the Disability Mentoring Day that will be held on October 20. We have sixty applications of youth with disabilities from across the state that will participate in job shadowing activities on October 20th. This is a national event and this will be the first year that we have implemented it in Montana. Sixty youth having the opportunity to job shadow is a significant step toward a successful transition to adulthood. There is not a cost to the student to participate and businesses are asked to donate their time on that day to show the youth what is expected in the work setting. The Transition Coordinator recruits businesses to voluntarily participate and matches the students with the business.

The final activity that is conducted by the Transition Coordinator is an annual conference. On October 3-5, youth with disabilities will participate in a Real Life Fair whereby they will be exposed to resources depicting real life situations that they will need to deal with once leaving high school.

The Transition Coordinator secures sponsors for the conference in an effort to make the conference self-supporting.

We believe that for the funds that the legislature has provided has allowed us to impact a significant number of people from across Montana. There are four projects coordinated with these funds: 1)MYTransitions Web site, 2)Regional Transition Meetings, 3)Disability Mentoring Day, 4)Annual Transition Conference.

Additionally, we are working on a number of fundraising efforts including an on-line auction, joining Montana Shares, and direct solicitation. We do hope however that the state will continue to be a partner in the transition needs of our youth with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration of eliminating the Transition Coordinator from this list of cuts.

June Hermanson  
MYLF Program Director  
1617 Euclid Suite 1  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406)442-2576 Phone/TDD  
(406)443-3796 Fax  
E-Mail - [mylfjune@bresnan.net](mailto:mylfjune@bresnan.net)  
[www.montanaylf.org](http://www.montanaylf.org)

Please do **NOT** reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Polly Becker and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 5 Years Months

Personal Experience/Comments: I have a child with a very severe heart defect. He meets nursing home criteria, and is on the wait list for in-home services. Our family really needs the benefits for which he is eligible, but cannot get due to funding.

Contact Information: 636 W. Artemos Drive, Missoula MT 59803. 406 360 3677  
gardnerpolly@yahoo.com

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is JAMES DENEND and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 1 Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: I have alot of medical  
problems + my S/O has been  
getting worn out trying to take care of  
me. I just got on the wait list as recom-  
manded by my care manager.

Contact Information: JAMES DENEND + RENEE WOOD

825 RIVER ST

HAMILTON, MT 59840 PH# 406-375-5227

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Please do NOT reduce HCBS slots, there are already 508 on the wait list.

My name is Bonnie Takeson and I have been on the wait list to receive Home & Community Based Services for 1x3m Years/Months.

Personal Experience/Comments: Need my client to have more hrs. because my eye sight is getting worse making harder for me to see + do chores. My body is also getting weaker for me to need the help that assures I am taken care of.

Contact Information:

Bonnie Takeson, Box 1153, Browning, MT 59417. #1-406-338-5010/mess. 338-3686.

Yes I would be available to discuss this further. Please contact me.

Dear Legislative Finance Committee, PM

As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

Brooke Lrh

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

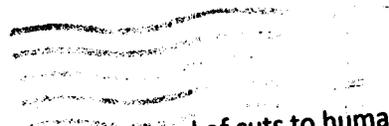
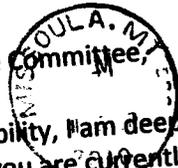


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I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely, Lorna Palin  
Missoula, MT

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



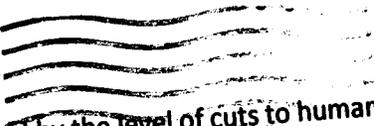
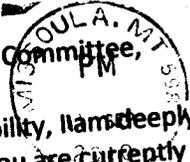
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I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

*Deborah Elliott*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



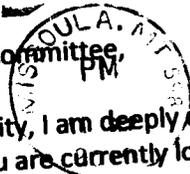
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I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

*Marin J. Leifer*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

*Lyle Hochhalter*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. A. ...".

Dear Legislative Finance Committee

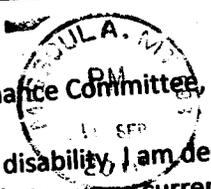
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Sincerely,

*Velma Chandler*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

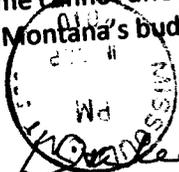


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Sincerely,

*Anna J. [Signature]*



Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

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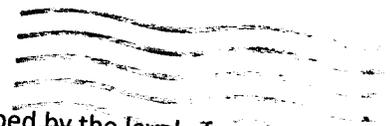
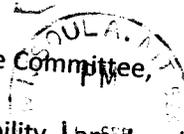
Sincerely,

*B. Lemay*



*9/9/2010*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely, *Pamela A Kittelson*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

PM

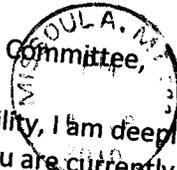
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I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Rostad (16yrs)  
Old

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,



As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

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Sincerely,

*Bryan D Tingle*  
*By Del Reynolds Guardian*  
*for Bryan*

Dear Legislative Finance Committee,

As a person with a disability, I am deeply disturbed by the level of cuts to human service programs that you are currently looking at as potential ways to balance Montana's budget. I am also fearful that if these cuts are implemented that I will lose many of the services that I rely on to live my life, which will gravely affect my ability to live as independently as I can and even possibly my ability just to survive. Many of the cuts could also force me to live in a nursing home or another institutional setting. I do not want to live in a nursing home, I do not belong there and we all know that making me or anyone else live in an institution is more expensive than providing community-based service.

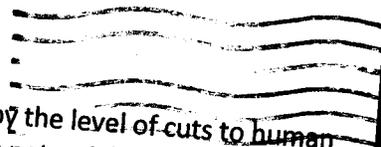
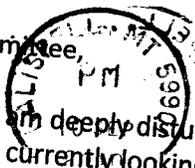
I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

Rosalie del Campo

106 2701

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I understand Montana must balance its budget but I urge you to consider that services reductions that occurred in 2003 have never been replaced and those of us who have the least amount of income cannot afford to lose even more. Please look for other ways to balance Montana's budget.

Sincerely,

Daniel Manforton