



Legislative Finance Committee – Education Subcommittee Meeting on April 23, 2020

Outline of OPI testimony on Educational Costs for Children served in In-State Psychiatric Treatment Facilities and the Significant Needs Grant Program:

- Explanation of the issue – Ken Bailey, Chief Financial Officer
 - Since 1997, OPI has had the responsibility for funding educational services for Montana students in Psychiatric Children’s Hospitals and Residential Treatment Centers.
 - 20-7-435(13), MCA, shows this responsibility but has an exception for children whose medical costs are paid for by Medicaid.
 - Medicaid does not pay for education services.
 - When the OPI realized these children receive no state support to fund their education, we changed our contracts to allow for billing for education services for these children while simultaneously adding a clause to prorate payments according to the existing prorations.
 - So far in this fiscal year the OPI is prorating bills at a rate of 50.5%.
 - HB 2 appropriated \$787,801 in each year of this biennium for In-State Treatment.
 - Three financial results:
 - No money for the significant needs grants (20-7-435(7))
 - Supplemental appropriation request for \$1.6M
 - Request for a corresponding appropriation in the next biennium of \$1.6M
- Significant Needs Grants – Jenifer Cline, Division Administrator, Student Support Services
- Statute and Legal Comments – Julia Swingley, Legal Counsel
- Perspective of the Organizations Providing Service – Mike Chavers, CEO, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch