

I. Two areas Budget Process and the MR Budget specifically

A. Budget Process

1. Gov's Proposed Budget in February (this year in March)
2. Appropriations Hearings (House and Senate) Cabinet Sec.'s
and Gov's Office Harris. and on the Road
3. Negotiations start between the 4 caucus and the Admin
 - a. don't really get serious until May or June
 - b. make up of majority means alot
 - (1) present count and what that means
 - (2) how that effects the monority
 - c. only about 5-6 people actually decide what the
final product will look like
 - a. have to have an advocate in that group
 - b. rank and file don't have anything but up or
down vote
4. Budget reform proposal (Dems)
 - a. must introduce a budget by first of May
 - b. must past budget by end of May
 - c. open up the process to amendments (revenue neutral)
 - d. must pass by deadline if not paychecks are withheld
 - e. did adopt some of this but Senate never did

B. MR Budget

1. Start with Gov's Budget request for MR
 - a. State Ctrs. 11.2% increase
 - b. Comm. Mental Retardation Ser. 7.7% increase
 - c. Intermediate Care Fac/Men Ret 8.1% increase
 - d. Early intervention 1.8% increase
 - e. MR total for general Fund 7.7 % increase
2. MH/MR Program Admin Assn. Request
 - a. 3% increase for providers as opposed to 2%
 - b. an additional \$288,000 to make up differences of Federal reductions
 - c. any savings as a result of "right sizing" state institutions be invested in community MH/MR programs
 - (1) new buzz word - Admin projecting \$5m reduction in funding available - means if don't want cost add \$5m
 - (2) although when Houston questioned about it in Appro hearings she had no details
 - (a) where it take place?
 - (b) How many employees impacted?
 - (c) what institutions be effected? closing?
 - d. Admin request for \$1.4m for 500 add children for early intervention service be used to fully fund children already in service

Commit Shakeup

Single
them.
Fund using
Martyrize

C. What does this mean in light of the political realities?

1. You have to someone at the table fighting for you
 - a. one of those 5 or 6 people who are whacking up the pie
 - b. but I don't see it as trying to get more but rather protecting what is proposed!
2. The Gov has proposed a \$2b tax reduction over the next four years
 - a. how we do that and still maintain what we have means that either economy must continue to expand and produce the surplus's that we presently enjoy or
 - b. the Federal gov makes up the difference and what's the likelihood of that happening?

D. Where are we? Someplace as all others who are in jeopardy - must work the system as best you can -
eventually - UK Budget has risen almost 90% over last few years - need the advocates loud advocates - who touches all. Students /
leg / Admin People -

Rep. Tangretti

Talking Points

ARC Organization

April, 1995

- ▶ Support the MH/MR Program

Administrators Assn. of Pennsylvania budget

requests down the line:

-- A 3 percent cost of living adjustment for community mental health, mental retardation and early intervention as opposed to the 2 percent COLA proposed in the Governor's Budget.

-- An additional \$288, 000 to backfill the reductions in the federal Mental Health

Services Block Grant.

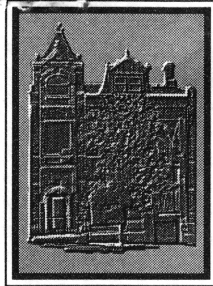
--Support for the Governor's proposal that Pennhurst funding be merged into community mental retardation line item amounting to an additional \$2.7 million.

-- Their request that all savings achieved through "rightsizing" state institutions be invested in community MH/MR programs.

-- And their request that the \$1.4 million the Governor proposed for 500 additional children to receive early intervention entitlement services be used to fully fund children already in service.

I am pleased that the Governor's budget requests amounts consistently above the rate of inflation for State Centers for the Mentally Retarded, an 11.2 percent increase; Community Mental Retardation Services, a 7.7 percent requested increase; Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded, an 8.1 percent increase, and an overall General Fund Budget increase for mental retardation services of 7.7 percent.

4/20/95



Belden, Belden, Persin, Johnston & Zuzik

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March 27, 1995

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Thomas Tangretti
State Representative
327 South Main Street
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Re: The ARC, Westmoreland Luncheon

Dear Tom:

Thank you very much for agreeing to appear at the luncheon for The ARC, Westmoreland membership about which we recently spoke by telephone. I have advised the Board of Directors that you have graciously agreed to appear at a luncheon on Thursday, April 20, 1995.

For your information, the luncheon is scheduled to commence at 11:30 A.M. at Lakeview Lounge. Lunch is scheduled to be served at 11:45 A.M.

Allen Kukovich was gracious enough to appear recently at a similar event in Irwin and approximately 60 people appeared to hear his remarks. He spoke briefly and then fielded questions from parents of mentally retarded individuals concerning funding and other issues of concern to those in attendance.

I will be in touch before April 20th to let you know those areas about which the parents may have the most interest. As always, I know you will do a very fine job.

Belden, Belden, Persin, Johnston & Zuzik

Thomas Tangretti, State Representative
Re: The ARC, Westmoreland Luncheon
March 27, 1995

Page 2

If you have any questions concerning this, please feel free to give me a call. I would appreciate it if you could take a moment to confirm your availability so that the necessary arrangements can be concluded.

Finally, on behalf of The ARC, Westmoreland and all those we serve, thank you for taking time out from your busy schedule to join us for this event.

Very truly yours,



Robert I. Johnston

RIJ/hcr

cc: Jean Kauffman / The ARC, Westmoreland