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Date

2003 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1014

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1014

House Appropriations Committee
Human Resources Division

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 15, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
One	XX	XX	
Two	XX		
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

Chairman Delzer called the meeting to order with Reps. Kempenich and Kerzman absent. Reps. Kempenich and Kerzman joined the meeting five minutes later.

Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple started the testimony in favor of the bill. Lt. Governor Dalrymple asked the committee to give the bill its full attention and noted that this program has done a tremendous amount of good work for the children and families of North Dakota. In addition, he asked the committee to think about the long-term function with regard to the budget of the organization.

Senator Rich Wardner, who is a board member of Region 8, Children's Services Coordinating Committee and a member of the Dickinson Chamber of Congress continue the testimony in favor of the bill. Senator Wardner stated for the record that this organization has been valuable in enhancing the lives of children and families and is now in the process of providing an even

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Hearing Date January 15, 2003

higher level of service in his district. He said that the CCSC fulfills many functions that other agencies do not and hoped that the committee recognized that CCSC fulfills a valuable collaborate role particularly with respect to finding and assisting groups in finding grants and other sources of funding.

Ms. Sandy Bendewald, Director CSCC (see attached testimony)

Ms. Bendewald testifying in favor of the bill, was asked about Random Moment Time studies and the mechanics of them. In addition, Ms. Bendewald does not see any additional decreases in funding unless the definition of "candidate" changes again. The changed and much more narrow definition of "candidate" is what has caused the current decrease in funding. In addition, the committee asked Bendewald whether or not she has seen a decrease in Participating Agencies (PAs). She stated that there had been a drop off for a variety of reasons. In addition, the committee asked how much money the tribal PA's generate. She stated that she didn't know for certain and would provide those figures to the committee. Chairman Delzer asked for a breakdown of the budget by grant. Rep. Kempenich asked whether or not the grant funds are disseminated by CCSC. Ms. Bendewald stated that CCSC just facilitates the process, but has no hand on the funds and that the actual grant applicant is the PA.

Further questioning from the committee included discussion about the relationship between the CCSC and DHS and whether or not there would be any conflict of interest if monies were distributed directly to DHS. Bendewald stated that there wouldn't be any conflicts but that would minimize the collaboration that CCSC has fostered with other organizations. Bendewald also stated that because so many PA's have a relationship with CCSC, that many have volunteered their resources to help the program.

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Mr. Mike Ahmann, Region VII, CSCC Board President (see attached testimony)

Mr. Ahmann, in response to questioning from Chairman Delzer, stated that the funds received for the program go into the general fund or may become slated for specific programs. He also stated that much of the administrative time that is spent on the program is primarily financial in origin but that much of the functions are computerized.

In addition, Chairman Delzer asked about the online community directory that Region VII maintains. Mr. Ahmann responded that the directory is self-sustaining and was originally set up with grant money.

Ms. Joan Miller, Director, East Central Special Education

Ms. Miller testified in support of the bill. Her school is a PA in the CSCC program and has interests in both Region VI and VII which she feels gives her a unique perspective to see the collaborative power of the CSCC program. Ms. Miller feels this collaboration has been very important in creating relationships between entities and continues to foster a positive environment. Further, Ms. Miller stated that in her opinion, the collaboration fostered through this programs is more valuable than the actual funds in question. In addition, Ms. Miller sees the grant money as being best used as seed money to start new programs that are needed. Ms. Miller also stated that the funds that her school receives go into the general fund but are earmarked for specific functions.

Ms. Sharon Unruh, Administrator, Central Valley Health Unit (see attached testimony)

Ms. Unruh stated that while her organization doesn't receive large amounts of money from the program, the collaborative aspect is invaluable.

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Sheri McMahon, Citizen (see attached testimony)

Didn't actually testify, sent testimony to committee.

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1014

House Appropriations Committee
Human Resources Division

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 30, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
One	XX	XX	
Two	XX		
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes: Committee Work

Chairman Delzer called the meeting to order with all members present except Vice-chairman Warnke and Rep. Kempenich.

Sandy Bendewald, Director, Childrens Services Coordinating Committee, (see attached) provided the committee with answers to inquiries from the earlier hearing. In addition, **Karol Riedman, Technical Consultant, CCSC**, also provided the committee with a time frame for receiving the last quarter's figures.

Discussion centered around the income levels earned by each region over the past two biennia. There was also discussion regarding administrative costs. **Chairman Delzer** stated that he is concerned that with reduced income levels, that administrative costs will eat into the funds available for programs.

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