

HB

883

Abstract of REACH Committee Proposal for a
Day-Training Program and Living Alternatives for Developmentally Disabled
Adults in the Juneau Area

(REACH= Residential, Educational Alternatives in the Community for the
Handicapped)

The REACH Committee, a group of concerned citizens and parents, is working with local and state governmental agencies in an effort to develop and implement a training program for developmentally disabled adults in the Juneau Area. These adults, due to mental retardation and/or other disabilities, require extensive educational, social, vocational and economic habilitation/rehabilitation in order to lead more normal lives.

From a survey of the Juneau community, adult programs in Anchorage, and the state institution in Valdez, 44 people needing community-based alternatives to institutionalization have been identified. Specifically, at least six of these people need immediate assistance and up to twenty adults will need an educational, vocational and recreation program within the next year.

- * The overall goal of this program is to meet the needs of developmentally disabled persons in the Juneau area.

The objectives of the REACH proposal include:

Phase I -FY 1979

1. Obtain funding to cover the initial cost of developing and implementing the project. Budget items include salary for the Program Director and at least one additional trained staff person, operating expenses, allowance for space rental/building modification, training materials, and contractual services. (Requested budget, \$110,000.00- see attached breakdown)
2. Implement a day training program within a community setting to provide educational, vocational, independent living training, and coordination of a recreation program for up to twenty developmentally disabled adults.

Phase II- FY 1980

1. Expand the day training program to meet the needs of at least 20 developmentally disabled adults and establish appropriate living alternatives, including a group home and/or supervised apartment living for 12-15 adults.

Policies:

1. The REACH committee endorses the principles of normalization. Program development will be based on these principles.
2. A non-profit corporation, REACH Inc., will be established to receive funding for the project.
3. The Board of Directors will hire the Program Director whose responsibility it will be to hire the staff for the project, develop the program, administer the program, and prepare the budget.
(Staff hired with board approval-- set forth in By-Laws.)

BUDGET

Program Director	\$ 30 - 32,000 (includes 14% for fringe benefits)
Vocational Trainer	22 - 24,000 (includes 14% for fringe benefits)
Activity Program Coordinator	18 - 20,000 (includes 14% for fringe benefits)
TOTAL FOR PERSONNEL	<u>\$ 76,000</u>
Rental Space (approx. 1,000 sq. ft.) Training Center/Office	\$ 10,000
Supplies/Materials for Training	3,000
Building Improvement Modification for Handicapped and Maint.	3,000
Insurance	1,500
Office Supplies	2,000
Janitorial	1,500
Utilities - Telephone, Electricity, Heat, Garbage	1,400
Travel and Mileage	2,000
Accountant Fees	1,200
Transportation - Purchase of Vehicle	3,500
License and Fees	130
Gas, Oil and Maintenance of Vehicle	1,200
Operating Misc. Expense	1,800
Postage and Mailing	400
Professional Contractual Service	2,000
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$110,630.00</u>

HB 883

March 20, 1978

Representative Charles Parr, Chairman
House HESS Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Parr:

We would like to go on record in support of House Bill 883 which would appropriate \$110,630.00 from the general fund for use in establishing a group home and support services for developmentally disabled adults in the northern portion of Southeast Alaska.

As concerned citizens and members of the REACH Committee, a local organization of parents and citizens who have developed a proposal for such a training program, we are most aware of the immediate need for such a program. In order for these adults to lead as normal a life as possible in their home community, they require the extended support services beyond school years. At this time, there are no such services in the Juneau area. We feel that the appropriation of the requested sum of money would insure, in conjunction with the proposed sum of \$30,000.00 from the borough's Community Development Block Grant fund, implementation of a group home and support services for these adults.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. We urge you to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Bruce Aronson
Mary Aronson

Bruce and Mary Aronson
P.O. Box 1004
Juneau, Alaska 99801

HB 883

March 22, 1978

Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Attention: The Honorable Charles Parr, Chairman House HESS


Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of HB883 regarding some \$110,600 for a day training facility in Juneau to serve the needs of developmentally disabled adults in the vicinity of Juneau. The REACH (Residential, Educational, Alternatives in the Community for the Handicapped) Corporation has submitted this proposal for your consideration after many months of investigation into this program. Many members of REACH are parents of DD children and adolescents who now need, or will soon need such a program to enable them to live as normal a life in their own communities as is possible. Without such a program, it is necessary to go to Anchorage, Valdez, or Seattle for specialized training.

I urge you to contact members of REACH should you need more information or background on this proposal. The initial phases of the proposal will be funded by the budget request should this bill pass. Much consideration has gone into the preparation of this budget and to operate a sound program the entire amount requested must be granted. Any less would only serve to diminish the proposed services.

Your ardent support of HB883 is requested. Please advise if you need additional testimony or support for this bill. Please do everything you can to get it moving as the need will not diminish, but will increase with time.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Bowns
Chairman, Catastrophic Illness Committee

March 21, 1978

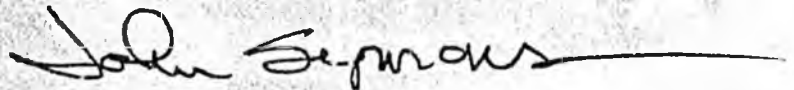
Representative Charles Parr
Chairman, Committee on Health,
Education and Social Services
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Parr:

I have in front of me House Bill No. 883 which involves the development of a group home and support services for developmentally disabled adults in the northern portion of Southeast Alaska. I wish to very much support this bill for our handicapped here in Juneau. It is critically needed. As I am sure you are aware, we have very little help for these people once they leave the Juneau School District. These young adults deserve to live at least in their own area of Alaska, if not in their own city. It is a shame that we work with our students for many years on basic living skills, and then because there are no other local facilities, they are forced to leave to go to Anchorage or Fairbanks when they become adults.

If you would like me to speak in front of the HESS Committee regarding this matter, I would be more than pleased to talk to them about this.

Cordially yours,



John Symons
Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services
and
Parent of a Handicapped Child

JS:bh