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COMMITTEE REPORT

SENATE

FURTHER: Finance

3/24/81

Date: _____

Mr. President:

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND

The Committee on SOCIAL SERVICES has had SB 325

education of certain exceptional children

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s) same title
- replace with CS for _____ new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Handwritten signatures]

[Handwritten signature]

CHAIRMAN

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE:

By: Senate HESS

To: SB 325 SENATE BILL No. 325

HOUSE BILL No. _____

PAGE: 1

LINE: 27

- 1) delete "This Act takes effect July 1, 1981."
- 2) insert "AS 47.20.050.(5)(B) is amended to read:
(B) training in self-help skills, safety, social and simple occupational skills for trainable mentally retarded children(who have not reached the age of three (OF SCHOOL AGE) who are incapable of academic subjects;"
- 3) insert " Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981."

POSITION PAPER

Senate Bill No. 325

"An Act relating to education of certain exceptional children; and providing for an effective date."

This bill adds "center based" to home based as the mode of suggested service delivery. Historically, this program in Alaska has emphasized the home based mode because of research which shows the most lasting effects occur when parents are intimately involved with the learning program. There are, however, examples of research and demonstration projects that achieve this parental involvement using a center based mode, such as defined in this bill.

There may be some cost savings that result from this program option if there is less teacher travel, or if a teacher can effectively handle a larger caseload. These cost factors will not be known until some actual experience is gained.

The Department would have serious problems with adding "center based" if this resulted in an overlapping role with day care or with respite care services. The definition in the current bill is adequate since it clearly stipulates parental participation.

The existing statute 47.20.050(5)(B) is a remnant from the previous version (prior to 1978) of chapter 47.20. This should have been revised in 1973 or in 1978 and should certainly be revised at this time since it is a clear conflict with AS 14.30.180.

Position

Support.

Recommended by: David Bruce
David Bruce, Deputy Director
Division of Public Health

Date: April 8, 1981

Approved by: Helen W. Beirne
Helen W. Beirne
Commissioner

Date: 4/13/81

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill No. 325
 Title "An Act relating to education of certain exceptional children."
 Requested by Commissioner's Office Date 4/1/81

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health and Social Services
 Program Category Affected Public Health
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected _____
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
200 TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
300 CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
400 COMMODITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

IV. DATE 4/1/81 PREPARED BY David Spence, M.D.
 AGENCY Department of Health and Social Services
 PHONE 465-3100
 Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) & Approval M. Suber Date 4/6/81

POSITION PAPER

Senate Bill Number 326

"An act providing an appropriation for Infant Learning Program."

The anticipated need for the Infant Learning Program grants in FY 1982 is \$1,500,000. This amount is based on grant applications that have been received from 14 interested communities including those receiving one year funding under HB 60 for FY 1981. It is known that an additional two and possibly three additional communities have need for infant learning programs. If possible, programs should be initiated in these localities if the statutory intent of AS 47.20 is to be met.

Since a total of \$1,500,000 in grant funds will adequately fund all the community programs we suggest that the amount to be appropriated by SB 326 be reduced by the \$348,300 requested in the Governor's budget. We further suggest that the remaining \$1,151,700 be incorporated into the operating budget in line 700 for grants.

These programs, once initiated, are continuing in nature. Continued financial support is more assured if the support funds are included as part of the operating budget.

The purpose of the Infant Learning Program is to provide financial support and professional guidance to organized groups of parents, non-profit corporations, school districts and regional attendance areas who in turn provide programs for the early training of exceptional children under three years of age. The programs are home based and involve the parents in the education and training of their children. This early training is often instrumental in the child attaining a higher life potential than is possible when training and education is attempted later in life.

Recommended by: David Bruce
David Bruce, Deputy Director
Division of Public Health

Date: April 6, 1981

Approved by: Helen D. Beirne
Helen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date: 4-7-81

INFANT LEARNING PROGRAMS
LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

<u>Governor's Budget</u>	Financial Support FY 1981	Program To Be Funded Gov.'s Request	FY 1982 Proposals Received
Anchorage	(1) \$162000	(3) 179.7	166.6
Bering Strait/Nome-½ Year	13406	14.9	162.2
Lending Library - ACCA	4412	4.9	12.3
Kodiak	17730	19.7	21.0
Bethel	80000	88.7	153.6
Kenai	18435	20.4	24.0
Chugiak	18700	20.7	41.1
Ketchikan	20584	22.8	22.6
Tanana Chiefs: 8 Months	50000	55.5	183.8
Barrow/North Slope	(2) 33000	36.6	49.4
Palmer/Mat-Su	36435	40.4	40.7
Juneau/Lynn Canal	34915	38.7	45.2
Petersburg	14345	15.9	20.4
Teacher Training	(2) <u>15017</u>	<u>16.7</u>	<u>31.7</u>
Sub-Total	\$518979	\$575.6	\$974.6
 <u>Special Legislation: HB 60</u>			
Fairbanks - ACCA	\$188800	-0-	249.6
Sitka	30000	-0-	36.9
Dillingham	30000	-0-	62.4
Hearing Impaired: 2 yr. funds	40000	\$ 40.0	47.8
Blind/Vision Impaired: 2 yr. funds	<u>20000</u>	<u>20.0</u>	<u>53.6</u>
Sub-Total	\$308800	\$ 60.0	\$450.3
Total Program Funded	<u>\$827779</u>	<u>\$ 635.6</u>	<u>\$1424.9</u>

(1) \$154,000 Anchorage Pass-Through
Funds Transferred From Director's
Office.

(2) Includes \$37,100 Trans From Handicapped Children

(3) Includes \$170,900 Pass-Through
Funds From Director's Office.

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill No. 326

Title "An Act providing an appropriation for Infant Learning Program."

Requested by Commissioner's Office Date 4/1/81

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health and Social Services

Program Category Affected Public Health

BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Family Health - Special Education Grants

(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		49.4	53.1	57.1	61.4	66.0
200 TRAVEL		4.1	4.6	5.1	5.7	6.3
300 CONTRACTUAL		.1	.2	.2	.3	.4
400 COMMODITIES		2.2	2.4	2.6	2.9	3.2
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.		1,500.0	1,663.5	1,811.8	2,045.9	2,268.9
TOTAL		1,555.8	1,723.8	1,909.8	2,116.2	2,344.8

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		1,495.8	1,643.8	1,829.8	2,036.2	2,264.8
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						
Fed Pass-Thru FN DOE		60.00	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

Amount requested in bill increased by standard inflation as used in Governor's budget request for years 83-86.

IV. DATE 4/1/81

PREPARED BY Clayton Rex & David Spence, M.D.

AGENCY Dept. of Health & Social Services

Original: Legislative Finance

PHONE 465-3100

cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) M&B Approval M. Hubert

Date 4/1/81

April 10, 1981
Senator Charles H. Parr
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Senator Parr

We are in favor of passage of Senate Bill 326, Senate Bill 365 and Senate Bill 18.

Being parents of a special child, we have received services under the Infant Learning Program and can testify to the necessity of such services.

Special education programs are extremely important to special children because these children need to be taught things that other children understand and do in their average day to day events. A child's early years are filled with huge amounts of very important learning. The base for all future learning is being built and this is the time when the most rapid and successful corrections can be made. Children learn and do things when they are physically or mentally ready to learn. If this readiness is not taken advantage of, especially with special children, it may be even more difficult for them to learn the same things later. Children also forget part of what they have learned or can regress in their physical abilities during vacations. With special children, this can be even more serious and the re-learning and re-training time will be longer.

These are some of the main reasons why we feel that a special education program is needed that includes children from birth and runs throughout the year. Passage of Senate Bill 326, Senate Bill 365, and Senate Bill 18 would do this and we urge you to vote for them.

Sincerely,

Gary C Schmeling
Dianne Schmeling

Gary and Dianne Schmeling
4411 Portage Blvd
Juneau, AK 99801



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
April 13, 1981

PHS ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH SERVICE UNIT
USPHS ANHclinic
P. O. Box 890
Juneau, Alaska 99801

This is a brief note to indicate to you of our support of House Bill #449 and Senate Bill #320.

It has become increasingly obvious in the past 15 to 20 years that the aggressive and early utilization of special teaching and supplies, facilities, and the expertise of individual instructors can have a tremendous and positive affect on exceptional children. The long term benefits far outweigh the initial expenditures. Of more importance, however, such intervention early in the course of a child's development gives that child the opportunity to actualize his real potential, an option that all of us like to feel is available in this country.

Thank you very much for your consideration for these Bills.

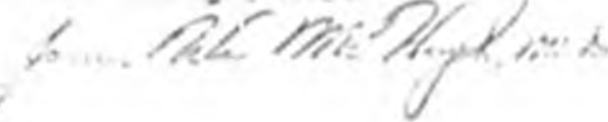
Sincerely,

Keith A. White, M.D.
Clinical Director


Frank Senecal, M.D.


Jann Ogden, M.D.


James McHugh, M.D.



Diane Schmeling

I am a parent of a special child that has received services under the Infant Learning Program, and I would like to explain to you what this service has done for her and why I think it is so important.

At the age of eight months my daughter, Chrissie, was referred to the Infant Learning Program. At this time she had not yet been diagnosed, but doctors were concerned about some of her physical abnormalities and her slower development.

Beth Siemon, the Infant Learning Program facilitator for the Juneau area, came to my home and worked with Chrissie. Beth was able to observe Chrissie under everyday conditions, in the environment Chrissie was most familiar with. This is very advantageous because we all know how much our behaviors change when we are in unfamiliar situations. By these observations, Beth was able to tell me what areas Chrissie was especially weak in and show me exercises and games to play that would help to strengthen these areas.

Let me stop here and explain how important this part of the service is. As a parent, I know how effective a stimulating environment is to a baby's early learning and to prove it, Chrissie has every toy you can imagine. Chrissie was our first child, who we had planned and waited for, and I was not working outside the home. I spent nearly all my time with her. With all that time and toys and nurturing, you might think I was doing all that I could. With an average child, I probably was. But Chrissie is special and I was not prepared for her special needs. I needed to be taught. For an example, it took about three months to teach Chrissie to drop a block into a bucket. I needed to be taught the importance of this reflex and I needed the encouragement that I received to keep working on it.

This is why I believe that the home visit format that includes observing the child and educating the parents is vital to the effectiveness of the program.

The referral service that the Infant Learning Program provides is also very beneficial. We were informed of things such as the March of Dimes Clinics, Child Development Services and the Crippled Children's Fund.

By the time this legislation is passed and goes into effect, my daughter will no longer be eligible for this program. I am not here today because it will benefit me. In fact I am turning down work in order to be here. I am here because I believe in the Infant Learning Program. There are and always will be infants throughout Alaska who need this service.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that these infants receive service. It is amazing the difference this early intervention can make in the eventual abilities and productiveness of these children. The money spent now is minimal compared to what it may cost the state later if these children are not given help.

I am not only asking you to vote yes on the passage of the Infant Learning Program, but I am also asking you to encourage other senators to do so also. It is important to the people of Alaska, to me, and especially to all those special little people out there who need your help.

By Nancy!

Introduced: 3/24/81
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 325

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the education of certain excep-
7 tional children; and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 47.20.005 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 47.20.005. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of AS 47.20.005 -
11 47.20.050 to provide appropriate public education and training for the
12 exceptional children in this state who have not reached the age of
13 three. To the maximum extent possible, the department shall establish
14 a learning program which emphasizes individual needs, is home based or
15 center based, and involves parents in the education and training of
16 their children.

17 * Sec. 2. AS 47.20.010(b) is amended to read:

18 (b) The program established under (a) of this section shall
19 emphasize individual needs and, where possible, be home based or center
20 based, and involve parents in the education and training of their
21 children.

22 * Sec. 3. AS 47.20.050 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

23 (9) "center based" means based at a facility or specific
24 location used for a learning program for the education and training of
25 exceptional children where parents can attend classes with their chil-
26 dren.

27 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.

← shall?

28

SB 325 and SB 326 relate to Infant Stimulation Programs, of which there are 17 in the State of Alaska with grant applications on file with H&SS. The children targeted through this program are mentally retarded, developmentally disabled and physically handicapped, under the age of three.

Any handicapping condition, identified early, can be vastly improved by mental and physical stimulation of the child in the early years--before bad habits are learned that would later require much education to un-learn. Another advantage of the Infant Program is that parents are heavily involved in working with their children. Not only do they receive support in the stressful situation of accepting the child's impairment, but they share in the educational component while learning skills they can carry into the home. Most of the programs operating in Alaska are home-based; that is, the staff travel to each home and work individually with each family unit. Admittedly, these programs are expensive, but they will reduce the amount of Special Education needed in the schools and develop a basis of learning-responsibility in the home which will produce a working individual. Most people have no experience with the handicapped, are afraid of it, and will tend to ask very little of the child thinking very little is possible. A learning program eliminates these beliefs and sets up structure in the family that will maximize the child's potential.

The reason for the appropriation bill is that the Governor cut the funds drastically from the H&SS budget request. The amount now approved would fund little more than one of the existing programs. Although Infant Programs are in existence all over the country, they are only now developing in Alaska, where they are even more vital in view of the isolation of much of the population and the high alcoholism rate here.

January 14, 1981

Ms. Pat Myers, MSW
Executive Director
Fairbanks Chapter of the
Alaska Crippled Children and Adults
1020 Barnette Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Myers:

I have received your letter of January 9 and have already asked my Administrative Assistant (Rochelle Weller) to start investigating it with Dr. Spence.

The Fairbanks Delegation will be meeting tomorrow to discuss requests for funding which we have received, and I will bring up your request at that meeting. If additional information is required, we will certainly ask for it.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Parr

CHP:vc

The Fairbanks Chapter of the

Alaska Crippled Children and Adults

1020 Barnette St. Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Telephone 456-4884

January 9, 1981

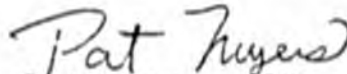
Senator Charles Parr
State Capitol
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Parr:

We appreciate the time you spent talking with us about our Infant Learning Program for handicapped infants, ages 0-3, in early December. We have met with most of the other Fairbanks legislators and are quite pleased with the overall response. Per the request of yourself as well as the other legislators, we are enclosing a brief description of our request, program description etc. Please note particularly the problem of limitations on center based programming as perceived by us with the current legislation. We neglected to discuss this with you but did cover this with the other legislators.

We will keep in touch and wish you a successful year in the legislator.

Sincerely,


Pat Myers, MSW
Executive Director

PM:smh

encl.

1020 Barnette Street
Fairbanks, Alaska
456-4884

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION FOR FAIRBANKS
INFANT LEARNING PROGRAM

JANUARY 1981

REQUEST

1. Funding of \$249,892 is needed to provide Infant Learning Services (occupational, speech, and physical therapies; special education; counselling; and nursing consultation) to 90-100 handicapped infants, ages 0-3, and their families in the greater Fairbanks area, Nenana, and Delta. RESEARCH demonstrates the COST EFFECTIVENESS of such services with handicapped children and that this early intervention reduces the effects of a handicapping condition and CAN DO IT BETTER AND MORE RAPIDLY THAN LATER INTERVENTION.
2. We request your consideration of an expansion of the existing legislation in Chapter 77, Section 1, AS 47.20.005 and Section 2, AS 47.20.010 (see attached legislation) to give equal emphasis to both home based AND center based program components. The current legislation emphasizes home based. We have found that both home based and center based are necessary in order to provide the most effective service to the children (page 2 gives more information on center based programming and how it interfaces with home based).

METHOD OF FUNDING

We would prefer to be funded through the existing funding mechanism with the Division of Social Services, Family Health Section, provided that (1) sufficient funds are available for us to maintain our current level of service and program quality and (2) both home based and center based program components are funded. If these two conditions are not possible through the Division of Social Services, we would then opt to be considered for a special appropriation. It should be noted that the Infant Learning Grants through the Division of Social Services are two year grants this time.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Infant Learning Program in Fairbanks is an early intervention program for handicapped children from birth to three years of age. Individualized programs are developed for each child by a team of professionals (an Occupational Therapist, a Physical Therapist, a Speech Therapist, a Special Education Teacher, a Parent-Child Coordinator for counselling services, and an overall Project Coordinator who also gives direct service). The program is taught to the parents in the home and/or in the developmental preschool, the mode of delivery depending on the needs of the child. Our program is in its fourth year and was funded by a federal grant for the first three years and by a special appropriation last year as state funds available for Fairbanks were expected to be only 25% of our need.

NEED

Based on national statistics of 2% of all children under age 15 in need of specialized services such as those offered by our program and an estimated population of 55,000 in Fairbanks, possibly 237 children under age 3 could need our services. In addition to this, there are the children in Nenana and Delta who need service.

Since July 1, 1980, we have provided services to 63 children and anticipate assisting a total of 75-80 children and their families for the fiscal year, July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981. As our program has become established and known in the community and with the development of our referral base, our numbers have increased from 20 children served for the first year to the expected 75 for this year (approximately a 400% increase). With this trend, it is anticipated that between 90 and 100 children will be served for the next fiscal year July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1982.

INFANT LEARNING PROGRAM RATIONALE

Early Infant Learning Programs SAVE TAXPAYERS DOLLARS and are extremely important in helping children reach their potential. Much Infant Learning research has been done recently, and this research is quite supportive of both the cost effectiveness and productivity of the programs. The article "A Rationale for Early Intervention" by Kay Walker¹ quite effectively summarizes many of the relevant points from the research as follows:

- (1) The first few years of a child's life (frequently narrowed to the first two or three) are most instrumental in helping a child reach his potential (Bell, 1972; Bloom, 1964; Schaefer, 1970; White, 1975).
- (2) Early education significantly reduced the number of children assigned to special education classes. This, obviously, can reduce special education costs.²
- (3) Early education has been found to reduce the number of students held back one or more grades. Every additional year spent by a child in school is extra cost to the taxpayer; conversely, a reduction in the number of years is a savings to the taxpayer.³
- (4) Thus, the cost benefit ratio of early intervention tend to make it more economical than later intervention (Hayden and McGinnes 1977).
- (5) The children from all types of programs (home based, center based, and a combination home-center-based) surpassed their controls on the Stanford-Binet, (Lazar, et al., 1977, p. 13).⁴
- (6) Early infant assistance is infinitely more crucial with the handicapped or developmentally delayed child.
- (7) Studies show that there may be critical periods for the development of each skill and that these periods may occur during the first three years of life (Hayden and McGinnes 1977).
- (8) In addition, all systems of the body are interrelated; failure to remediate a handicap may multiply its effects in other areas and produce other handicaps. The problems tend to become progressive and the child's development becomes worse with respect to other children as he grows (Hayden and McGinnes 1977).
- (9) Parents need support in developing good parenting behavior with a handicapped child before patterns become established (Hayden and McGinnes 1977).

In our Infant Learning Program, approximately 20% of our "graduates" do not require continuing special education services. With serial testing using the Alpern-Boll Developmental Profile, 40% have made substantial gains. In addition, 23% have made significant improvements.

1 Kay Walker, "A Rationale for Early Intervention", Views: An Early Childhood Special Education Newsletter by Eastern Montana College, Volume I, Number 1, (Fall 1980).

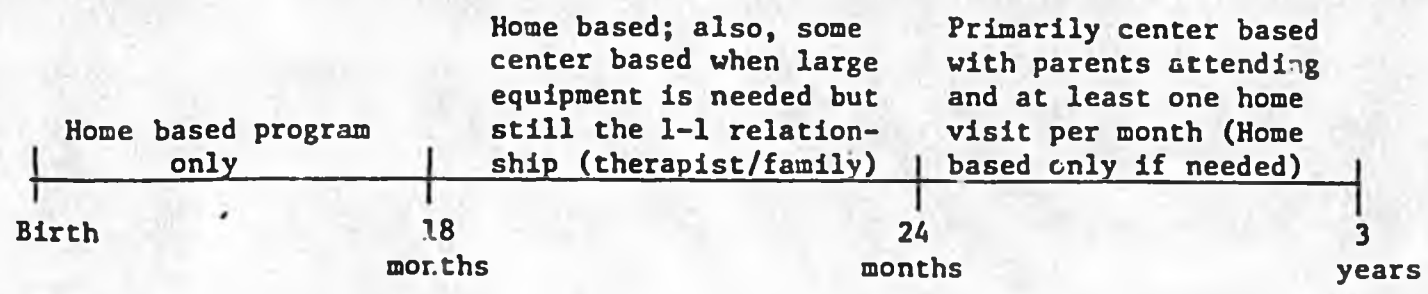
2 A study of 14 early childhood programs by the Education Commission of the State and the Office of Human Development Services of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

RATIONALE FOR CENTER BASED PROGRAM COMPONENT

Basically, service is offered on a continuum:



Benefits of center based program at age 2:

1. More service is given per service dollar--general educational programming and direct therapy (speech, physical, and occupational) are available in the preschool.
2. Parents become involved with other parents and other handicapped children.
3. Learning situations are reinforced from child to child in the group environment.
4. Referrals for children with social and behavioral difficulties need to be remediated in the group environment.
5. Socialization and language is reinforced among teacher, child, and parent.
6. The development of gross motor skills often requires a large physical set-up such as provided in the developmental preschool and specialized equipment which can't be transported to the home.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

PROPOSED BUDGET:

Salaries & Fringes (DOE)

(All staff work 12 months as program is year around)

Agency Director	\$ 12,587
Project Coordinator/Speech Therapist (full-time)	35,533
Occupational Therapist (full-time)	27,022
Physical Therapist (full-time)	27,022
Parent/Child Coordinator/home based nurse (part-time)	16,257
Preschool Teacher (full-time)	29,126
Secretary (full-time)	19,800
2 Teacher Aides (part-time)	21,780
Fringes	27,401

Transportation for home based	5,000
Supplies	4,000
Rent for Preschool	5,000
Telephone	500
Postage	250
Consultant Fees	1,000
Continuing Education	3,000
Miscellaneous	1,000

TOTAL \$249,892

This year's current budget is \$188,800 with the expectation that we would provide service to 60-65 children and their families. However, with the year less than half gone, service has already been given to 63 children.

The following accounts for the increase to \$249,892:

- (1) Staff raises of approximately 10% which increases the fringe benefits.
- (2) Increase in secretarial time from half to full time. One half time secretary was not enough to serve our Infant Learning staff of eight.
- (3) Increase from 3/4 time to full time for both the physical and occupational therapists. There has been quite an upsurge in referrals under age one which all require a home based program. This requires more staff time.
- (4) We anticipate service to 20% more children next year than in the current year (75 this year and 90 next year).

Also of note is the in-kind contribution of \$7,900 from the agency. In addition, office space is provided free by the agency. Most of the \$249,892 is for direct service to the infants and their families.



LAWS OF ALASKA

1978

Source

CSHB 548 (Finance) am S

Chapter No.

77

AN ACT

Relating to the education of exceptional children; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 47.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 47.20.005. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of secs. 5 - 50 of this chapter to provide appropriate public education and training for the exceptional children in this state who have not reached the age of three. To the maximum extent possible, the department shall establish a learning program which emphasizes individual needs, in home based, and involves parents in the education and training of their children.

* Sec. 2. AS 47.20.010 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.20.010. ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. (a) The Department of Health and Social Services shall provide professional guidance and financial assistance to organized groups of parents, nonprofit corporations, school districts, and regional educational attendance areas according to standards and regulations adopted by the department for providing special services, evaluation and special training required by exceptional children.

(b) The program established under (a) of this section shall emphasize individual needs and, where possible, be home based and involve parents in the education and training of their children.

* Sec. 3. AS 47.20.020 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.20.020. STANDARDS FOR ASSISTANCE. The department shall assist organized parental groups, school

Chapter 77

districts, regional educational attendance areas, and nonprofit corporations which have requested assistance and have arranged for the necessary facilities and equipment for training centers for exceptional children.

* Sec. 4. AS 47.20.050(1) is amended to read:

(1) "exceptional children" includes those children who have not reached the age of three and whose development is significantly delayed due to mental retardation, physical, neurological, or emotional handicap;

* Sec. 5. AS 47.20.050 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(7) "professional guidance" means the consultative services or other medical and educational specialists developed by the department for the education and training of exceptional children;

(8) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services.

* Sec. 6. AS 47.20.030, 47.20.040 and 47.20.050(3) and (6) are repealed.

* Sec. 7. This Act takes effect July 1, 1978.

SB 325 file

Bill will aid handicapped

Early intervention needed, local expert indicates

By Empire Staff

The biggest hurdle facing handicapped children is not their disease or affliction but complacency on the part of adults who fail to take steps which would enable the children to become productive members of their communities, according to the director of a local pre-school.

"Early intervention is needed by handicapped children to provide experiences they can benefit from," said Kay Bills, director of the St. Jude Center. "They can be productive citizens and not a drain on society if they're not stymied in their early years."

Bills is trying to get parents

of handicapped children and others organized to pressure lawmakers on legislation for funding what is called early intervention programs for the handicapped.

Most people know little about the programs or the needs of the handicapped, which makes her efforts especially tough, she said.

"We can't even get a hearing date on one of the bills because when we talk to senators they don't know anything about it," Bills said.

The bill to which she referred (SB 326) would restore funds slashed from the Department of Health and Social Service's budget for the Juneau Infant Learning Program. The

program targets handicapped children during the first three years of their lives, which Bills says are by far the most crucial in determining the kind of lives the handicapped will lead.

"The first three years is when we learn most of our information. The brain is very active before and after birth, and the skills learned during this time and ways of relating to others set an important foundation," Bills said.

Too often parents and doctors are complacent about handicapped children, apparently thinking the child will grow out of the condition or it will go away, she said. Sadly that is not the case, and valuable time is lost, she added.

"Early prevention is the key" when dealing with handicapped children, she said.

Bills said she wants parents of handicapped children to learn what they can about pending legislation and take time to lobby for programs which she says can help their children. Besides the Infant Learning Program, Bills said the Legislature is considering a bill (HB 449) which would provide operating funds for special education programs in public schools.

Bills also said she is encouraging parents or anyone else interested in the legislation to call her at St. Jude's to get particulars on the bills and the names of legislators to lobby.

Testimony from Norma Stichick - Coordinator Infant Learning Program
Bethel, AK 99559

To: Senator Charlie Parr - Infant Stimulation Appropriation - SB 326
Section of Family Health & Social Services Budget

Attention: Nancy Deitrich

There are 57 villages in YKDR Service-Unit plus the City of Bethel. The PATCH - ILP services the city of Bethel plus many villages as funding allows. This has meant no more than 15 villages during any one year.

Between 78-79 (representing those children 3 years old or less) there were a total of 847 live births to Delta mothers. Of these, 50 were high risk, premature births. All of those children qualify for infant stimulation. However, these figures do not represent other handicapping conditions in the 0-3 age range. Using conservative figure of 10% (1970 Bureau of Education for Handicapped) as many as 85 children each year need services. Ages 0-3 would be 250.

Between FY 80 and 81 the ILP serviced 41 children out of 53 referrals representing a total of 21 different villages on the Delta. There is no other program servicing handicapped children in the 0-3 age group and we are only servicing one third of potential high risk and handicapped population of infants in the YKDR service Unit. The proposed increase in the Infant Stimulation Budget is indeed needed.

Patten 507
 Freeman 515
 Adams 503
 Bucholdt 503
 Carney 415
 Malone 413
 Mass 126
 Rogers 513
 Suga 521
 Montgomery 501

Kitz.
 Card.
 Seward
 McAllen

Bennett 525
 Daywood 522
 Glass B 211
 Ferguson 117
 Sackett 514
 Stinson 516
 Sargulawski 508

Juneau	Per. St.
Ketch.	Kenai
Peters.	Kodiak
Sitka	Mat-Su
Anch.	Bethel
Chugach	Barrow
Tan Chiefs	Nome
	Dillingham
	FBKS

Center for handicapped children may close its doors

Continued from Page A-1

It's difficult to stay with these children 24 hours a day, the parents said. Because of the Respite program, one mother said, "My husband and I took our first vacation in nine years."

Another woman said it allowed her to go to her father's funeral.

Now they're worried about the lack of day care because most centers don't have facilities for handicapped children.

"It will be a real lack," state day care license official Michelle Decker said. "There are few centers now who would take them. They're just not qualified to handle handicapped kids."

Louise Lanier has two children with Downes syndrome. Her son attends Denali Elementary School and her daughter is in the mainstream program at Orion.

"We're in the military," she said. "We don't have relatives to draw on."

"This is the only program we have, and it's excellent. I don't blame regular day-care programs that don't take handicapped kids."

"But I'll tell you, it sure makes me mad that the legislature can appropriate money for a sled dog race but not for this."

ADC has apparently been in financial difficulties since its inception in October 1979.

"It's been under funded and mismanaged," the chairman of ADC's board of directors, Les Reynolds, said. "But the people that started that agency undertook something no one else would."

"We had it made until we got our monies redlined (during the last state budget session). In all fairness, the state and municipality have problems, too. Everybody is calling wolf so they figure we're calling wolf."

Spence said he believes the doors will close Saturday. With \$250,000 needed to pay debts and operating expenses through June, she said the center will be effectively bankrupt if the state or municipality don't come through with funds.

ADC officials went to the

legislature and the municipality beginning in mid-February.

Members of the legislature are concerned about setting a precedent for bailing out companies in financial trouble.

As Gifford — aide to state Sen. Ed Dankworth, R-Anchorage — said: "If we start making special allowances for one, how can we refuse anyone?"

Dankworth, as well as state Sen. Arliss Sturgulewski, R-Anchorage, and state Rep. Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, have been looking into funding for the center, but the wheels of the legislature turn slowly.

When contacted by The Daily News Wednesday, Madison said that the municipality does not have funds for the program, and if it did, the center has been so poorly mismanaged he could not in good conscience give those funds.

Later Wednesday, the mayor scheduled a meeting between municipal officials and members of the ADC board to discuss the possibility of providing money until the legislature could act. According to Madison, the municipality could offer \$25,000-\$30,000 if ADC believes it can work out its financial troubles.

Facility for impaired children may close

By SAFIAH MOTT
Daily News reporter

The state's only day-care program for mentally and physically handicapped children may close its doors Saturday after a long battle with financial mismanagement and government budget cutting.

Unless funds for the Alaska Developmental Center for Exceptional Children are appropriated from the legislature or the municipality, programs affecting 150 to 200 families will cease at 10 p.m. Saturday, officials said Wednesday.

Wrestling with a day-care program that can't make ends meet and another state-funded program operating at a deficit, the center is more than \$100,000 in debt, legislative aide Max Gifford said.

The municipality, in an attempt to provide interim funds for the center, could offer oper-

ating costs for another 30 days, Municipal Press Officer Kathy Madison said, but she added municipal officials and ADC members have not yet met to discuss the issue.

Irate parents and some of their children have planned a sit-in to protest the situation in front of Sullivan's office today, beginning about 9 a.m., according to Carol Scott, chairman of a special education advisory commission for the Anchorage school district.

Lauded by parents and professionals alike, ADC operates a daycare center for handicapped and normal children and an infant-care program.

The center's third program, called Respite, is a state-funded service providing trained 24-hour care for handicapped children. Called Respite because it is designed to give parents a break from their children, it

serves 90 families in the Anchorage area.

In an attempt to charge comparable day care rates while providing trained personnel, the center couldn't keep up, acting director Peggy Spence said.

"What are we going to do," said one mother in disbelief. "It just leaves us out in the cold."

Mary O'Brien balanced her 22-month-old daughter on her shoulder and shook her head.

"I've had cancer and part of my hand amputated," she said. "I have a child blinded and with cerebral palsy, and my husband works out of town. We don't have the money to pay people \$4 an hour to stay with her."

"And now they're trying to close the center on me. I don't know what I'm going to do."

See Back Page. CENTER



Anchorage Daily News / Amy Bennett

O'Brien rocks her daughter, Mave, who is blind and has cerebral palsy. The O'Briens have used the center since shortly after Mave was born.

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LA11 1692 11.21 JA01 0020 11.21 03/12/81

TO: SEN. PARR & HESS COMMITTEE
REP. CLOCKSIN & HESS COMMITTEE

FROM: DEANNA ESSERT
6262 W. DIMORD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502
243-1894

I AM A PARENT OF AN AUTISTIC CHILD AND A RESIDENT OF ALASKA SINCE 1963. I FIND IT INCREDIBLE THAT ALASKA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN CAN NOT BE FUNDED TO RELIEVE ITS INDEBTNESS AND MAINTAIN PRESENT SERVICE. AS A PARENT OF A HANDICAPPED CHILD, I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A DAY CARE CENTER OR A PRIVATE BABY SITTER WHO WILL CARE FOR MY CHILD ON A LONG TERM BASES. I NOTE THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS OF THE NON-HANDICAP CHILD WHO ARE IN NEED OF RESPIRE BECAUSE THERE IS A THREAT OF CHILD ABUSE.

Leg. Comm. Meeting - Wed. Night
Gov's Council. 7:00-10:00

DAVE SPENCE 3-13

Bill Ray Center

Enrollment March 1 - 165 statewide

need 1/2 million / yr.

suff. population to have prog.

0-6 mos - 2

Katzebue

6-12 22

Cordova

12-18 43

Seward

18-24 28

tok / Glenallen

24-30 36

30-36 34

H.B 60 Not Continued

Gov FY 82 - 348,300

FY 81 809,546 inc. HB 60

amendment to Statute

- auto funding

- jurisdiction funding mech.?

Gov. Council - Position Paper on IUP

* 800,400 - ...
added to 3rd 200

Sitka
Dilling
Bar. St. } need prog. this year.

Jun. 10	Kodiak - 1+
KTK. 4	Metou. 14
PTOB. 4	Prog. teach. - 38
Sitka 5	Ten. Chiefs - 1+
Ancl 58	Bethel 11
Chug. 7	Garrons
Kenai 6	Rome. 6
	Dilling. ?

3-13

Pat Meyer - infant learning money not sufficient
in state. 4 yrs. ago staff went to
Dave Spence / applied for DEH
funds, federal grant. FBRS.
set up model program - serve
Delta & Henana.

multiple handicaps - need full team
approach.

offer general evaluation to public.

Tamara Chisgo want - bring parents & child
in to center for complete evaluation.

increase size of infant learning funding.

wants to not feel threatened every year
for funding from Family Health. Helen
Birnie put in budget but Governor cut
infant program (FBRS, Dixie, Dillingham)

150 possible
to serve

Programs not at maintenance level but
just getting started. Getting referrals by
talking w/ doctors, nurses etc.

Colin Mackness got them 188,000 last yr.

Family Health Budget Request Unit
Special Education Grants Component

parent of a handicapped child

243-1894 Deanna Essert

→ ~~AK.~~ AK. Developmental Center
for Exceptional Children
272-2519 (handicapped)

located in Anch.

effects @ 200 families

the center will close
Saturday, March 14
because of a lack
of money -

due to: poor management (?)

only center in Anch that
has trained personnel

only respite center
for handicapped in Anch.

open 24 hrs. @ day
7 days a week

included
→ \$100,000 in debt (3-12-81
\$250,000 needed to Anch. News)
operate thru June & pay debt

Peggy Spence - acting director

TO: ALL LEGISLATORS

FROM: VIRGINIA REHDER, 1736 AMHURST COURT, ANC 99504
(272-8716)

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AM VERY CONCERNED THAT THE ALASKA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD BE SUPPORTED THAT IT CAN BE KEPT OPERATIVE.

EOM/MS