

Abortion funding gets pre-approval

By GARY NORRIS
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Some state funding of abortions for women on welfare received preliminary approval by the State Emergency Board on Thursday.

By a narrow margin, the board, acting as a sub-committee, approved a modified funding proposal that allows only one state-paid abortion to women 18 years or older and referred it to the full board for final action today.

The proposal submitted by the Adult and Family Services Division (AFSD) of the State Department of Human Resources (DHR), would allocate \$481,000 to pay for an estimated 2,300 abortions this year that cannot be performed under new federal regulations passed late in 1977.

Those regulations, administered through the department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), now allow Medicaid abortion payments to needy

women only if their pregnancy was caused by rape or incest, or if their life or health would be endangered by having the child. Women must report the pregnancy within 60 days after conception.

In late January, by an 8-7 vote, the board rejected a DHR request for \$1.6 million to fund abortions.

AFSD administrator Keith Putman, said the four-point proposal would "provide abortion services at approximately half the level provided before federal matching funds were virtually withdrawn from the program."

Firstly, Putman said, payment for any therapeutic abortion would need prior authorization by AFSD personnel.

Secondly, Putman said, the proposal places the average cost per abortion at \$203. Seventy percent of them would cost between \$135 and \$175 and would be performed as out-patient services, with the remaining 10 percent requiring hospitalization at an average cost of \$763.

Thirdly, women 18 years or older who were on welfare when they became pregnant would be eligible for only one state-paid abortion, not qualifying for federal funding, Putman said.

Fourthly, Putman said, the state would pay for two abortions for women 17 years or younger, who are eligible for welfare, or who are already in foster care or under the jurisdiction of the Children's Services Division.

"Several members of the board expressed at the January meeting their desire that we return with a modified proposal," Putman said, "and Gov. Straub asked we do everything possible to develop a proposal which had a high degree of success."

Putman said he didn't know what exact procedure would be used to decide which women would qualify under the proposal, but told the board his agency would stress rapid communication with patients and would make all decisions from its central state office.

Putman also didn't know how many welfare abortions had been performed since Feb. 9, when the new federal regulations took effect, but added that they were either federally funded or not performed at all.

"We can't start counting on paying any money until the board approves this request," Putman said.

Board Chairmen Jason Boe, D-Reedsport, said he felt the public generally opposes state funding of abortions for welfare women. Boe said 33 states have refused to allocate funds to take up the slack caused by the change in federal regulations and said a recent poll shows 57 percent of Portland's citizens oppose state abortion funding, with 37 percent favoring it.

"I'm disappointed there was no special session on this issue," Boe said. "The Legislature really bucked their responsibility. The only ultimate answer will come from a referendum and eventually this will happen."

IFC approves five goals, 7 to 0

By ANNA HOYT
Of the Emerald

It may be a first.

The Incidental Fee Committee Wednesday night heard goals from five programs and approved each one 7-0. Programs considered were: the Child Care and Development Program, the Jewish Student Union, The Cultural Forum and Program Office, the Black Student Union and Women in Science.

Heard first was the Child Care/Development Center who proposed five goals to the committee. First, to provide low cost day care to University students on a need-priority basis, second, to provide quality social, emotional and cognitive development for children, third, to help plan, organize research and lobby for the



ASUO-OSL childcare bill to be introduced at the legislature, fourth, to operate the program in an efficient, professional manner in compliance with all state and federal regulations and last, to provide experiential and research

oriented educational opportunities for U of O students.

The Jewish Student Union presented 10 goals to the IFC, all of which by agreement between the committee and the JSU, were condensed into one goal. Some of

the objectives of the JSU were to promote interests in and awareness of the Jewish culture among the entire student body, to advocate the needs of the Jewish student body and to provide formal educational opportunities in subjects of Jewish interest.

The EMU Cultural Forum found the IFC easier to deal with this week than last when the committee insisted the EMU's programs be drawn up in planned program budgeting system format, when they had already been written differently. Wednesday night the committee voted to accept the program description as written.

The Black Student Union expressed interest in promoting recruitment of black students to the University; to create and maintain an effective and efficient office; creating and encouraging certain cultural programs; and creating an environment psychologically comfortable to the black students at the University.

Five goals were presented to the committee by Women of Science. They were: To continue a seminar; to provide a forum for women grads and undergrads; to recruit students from junior and senior high schools and inform students of the different careers for women in science; to provide counseling for undergrad science majors; and to maintain a reference library.

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