

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Baxter Compensation Authority

69 Sewall Street
47 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
TTY: 207-287-6715
Voice: 207-287-6712

John Shattuck
Program Director

June 16, 2006

Senator Barry J. Hobbins
Representative Deborah Pelletier-Simpson
Members of the Judiciary

This is to inform you that as of the end of today, the Baxter Compensation Authority (BCA) will be concluding its program. When the BCA Board of Directors first convened in January of 2002, they were met with the ambitious challenge of designing and implementing a redress program unique to the State of Maine and to the nation.

Within 9 months of that first meeting, staff was hired and trained, office space was found and equipped, procedures, policies, and award standards established. In October of 2002, the BCA began accepting claim applications from former students of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, and the Maine School for the Deaf. In March of 2003, the BCA Compensation Panel convened their first hearing to review claims of abuse. Over a period of 3 years, 361 claims were adjudicated. Of those, 341 were found eligible for compensation with awards totaling \$17,715,000.

Satisfaction surveys suggest that most people felt they understood the claims process, and felt supported during what many initially considered an intimidating process. To be sure, there were several people who were disappointed by the decisions of the Compensation Panel, but most importantly people had the opportunity to "tell their stories".

Baxter Compensation Authority Board
John M.R. Paterson, Chair
Jefferson Ashby, Lois Galgay Reckitt, Stephen J. Rich, Brenda Schertz

What happened to the former students of the State School for the Deaf will always be considered the darkest of chapters in Maine's history, but the State should also take great pride in finding the courage to confront this difficult issue by providing a sense of justice and support to those who suffered abuse while under the care of the State.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Judiciary Committee for their astute oversight of the program as well as the Maine Legislature for its support of the BCA. In particular, I would like to recognize Senator Beth Edmonds, Senator Peggy Rotundo, Senator Scott Cowger, Representative Joseph Brannigan, and Representative Hannah Pingree.

Although I will no longer be the BCA Program Director as of next week, I would be happy to entertain any questions you may have about the BCA.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Program Director of the BCA. It has been an honor for which I will always be grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Shattuck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John Shattuck
BCA Program Director

Baxter Compensation Authority
Status Report

June 12th, 2006

- BCA Board first convened January, 2002
- BCA Director hired April, 2002
- BCA office opened July, 2002
- Staff hired and trained October, 2002
- Policies, procedures, standards passed by BCA Board October, 2002
- Initial applications for claims accepted October, 2002
- BCA panel hired and trained February, 2003
- First panel hearing March, 2003
- Adjudicated 361 claims
- 341 claims found eligible for compensation
- \$17,715,000 awarded: \$100,000 (63), \$60,000 (126), \$25,000 (146), \$57,500 (2), \$22,500 (4)
- Projected administration costs \$1,515,000 (8%)
- 34 appeals: 23 (eligibility) 10 overturned, 11 (compensation) 3 overturned.
- BCA program closing Friday, June 16, 2006.