

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Date 11 March 1969

To William F. Kearns, Jr., Commissioner Dept. Mental Health and Corrections
From Courtland D. Perry, Assistant Atty. Gen'l. Dept. Same
Subject Legality of Mental Health Program Improvement Fund Grant to Milestone Foundation

You have asked whether there is any legal prohibition against the Grant of \$6,000 from the Mental Health Program Improvement Fund to the Board of Directors of the Milestone Foundation, located at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, which Grant is intended to enable improvement of the physical plant of this alcoholic rehabilitation service, in order to enable compliance with applicable licensing statutes, with an ultimate view toward enabling full operation of the Milestone Foundation for its intended purpose.

P.L. 1965, Chapter 503, §3 provides in pertinent part:

.....Sums remaining in the Mental Health Program Improvement Fund shall be utilized by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, with the approval of the Governor and Council, for improvement of mental health programs."

Under Title 34, M.R.S.A. 1964, §2001, the Bureau of Mental Health of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections is responsible for the promotion and guidance of mental health programs within the several communities of the State.

It is the opinion of this office that the purpose for the proposed \$6,000 Grant is entirely within the contemplated function of the Bureau of Mental Health of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, and is entirely within the intended purpose of the Mental Health Program Improvement Fund.

Its intended use to underwrite the cost of physical improvements to enable compliance with State licensing laws is the first and necessary step in the improvement of a program falling within the scope of mental health services.

Courtland D. Perry
Assistant Attorney General

CDE/E