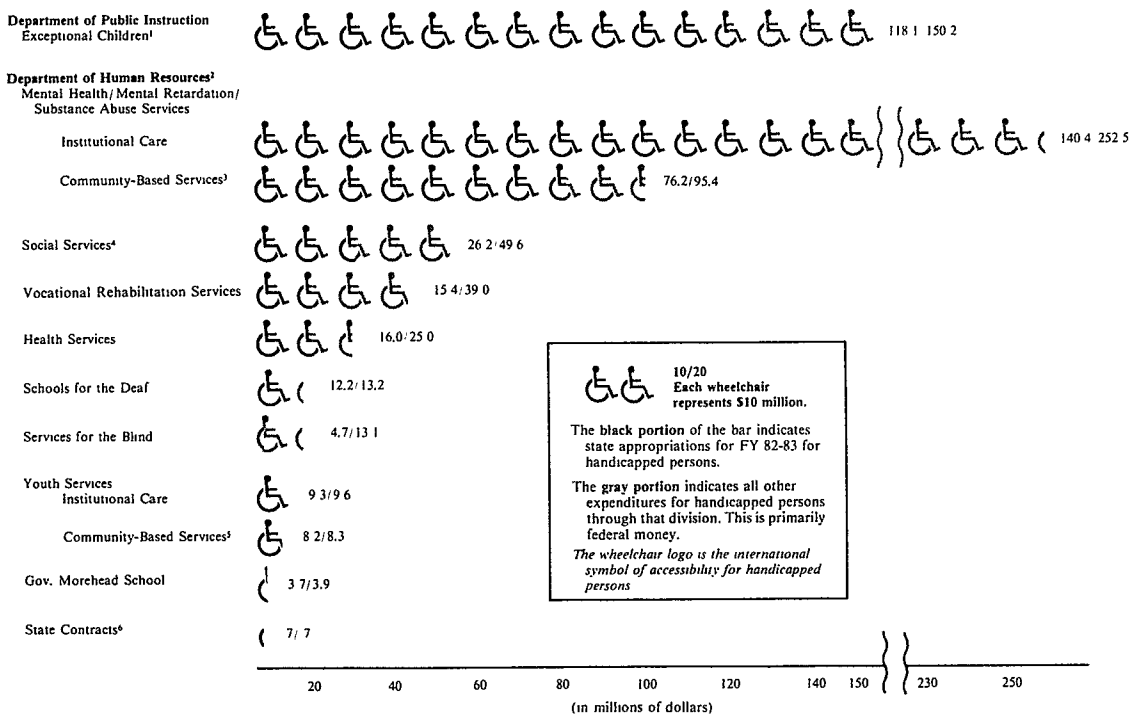


responsibility for these children—DPI, the Division of Social Services (in DHR), and the Administrative Office of the Courts. After the consent decree, a fourth agency—the Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (also in DHR) became the lead agency for supervising all *Willie M.* programs. Currently, about 540 children are in public school settings (which makes DPI the agency most responsible for them) and are also receiving mental health services (usually coordinated through an area mental health facility). The other 600 *Willie M.* children receive all services through the DHR administrative network, almost always at the local level through an area mental health facility.

Giving the mental health division the lead responsibility for *Willie M.* services has resulted

in an instinctive “mental health” treatment approach for these children. Lenore Behar, who directs the *Willie M.* program for DHR, says that “you had to have a single lead agency. An interagency approach to something as complex as *Willie M.* services wouldn’t have worked.” Even so, other state agencies have valuable experience and resources which somehow have to tie in to the mental health treatment structure. The Division of Youth Services, for example, operates five residential training schools and various community-based efforts such as wilderness programs. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services sends counselors into the schools for the deaf and into the public schools to help handicapped students prepare for adult life. But thus far, almost all *Willie M.* funds available to DHR—and the sum climbed

**Chart 1. Funding for Handicapped Persons in North Carolina, by State Division. State Appropriations and Total Funding, N.C. Fiscal Year 1982-83.**



<sup>1</sup>Includes \$1.4 million in *Willie M.* funds (state), \$2.6 million in Developmental Day Care funds (state), \$114.1 million in special education funds (state), and \$32.2 million in special education funds (federal). In FY 83, a total of \$171.8 million was spent on special education throughout the state, including \$13 million in local funds and \$10 million in state funds not administered by this division; neither is shown on the chart.

<sup>2</sup>Funds for the Division of Medical Assistance (Medicaid) are not included in this chart because funds for handicapped persons cannot be separated out from the general Medicaid budget.

<sup>3</sup>Includes \$16.2 million in *Willie M.* funds.

<sup>4</sup>Programs included in this total serve elderly and low-income persons, all of whom have a chronic health condition that prevents them from functioning in a “normal” way in some essential life activity.

<sup>5</sup>Includes \$195,000 in *Willie M.* funds.

<sup>6</sup>Contracts of state money to non-state agencies, including: Thoms Rehabilitation Center (\$577,332); Autistic Children’s Society (\$10,000); Cued Speech Center (\$25,000); Special Olympics (\$30,000); Autistic Summer Camp (\$20,000); Triad Home for Autistic Youth (\$27,000); and Autistic Children’s Home of Stanly County (\$38,000). Sources: Interviews with officials within each division.