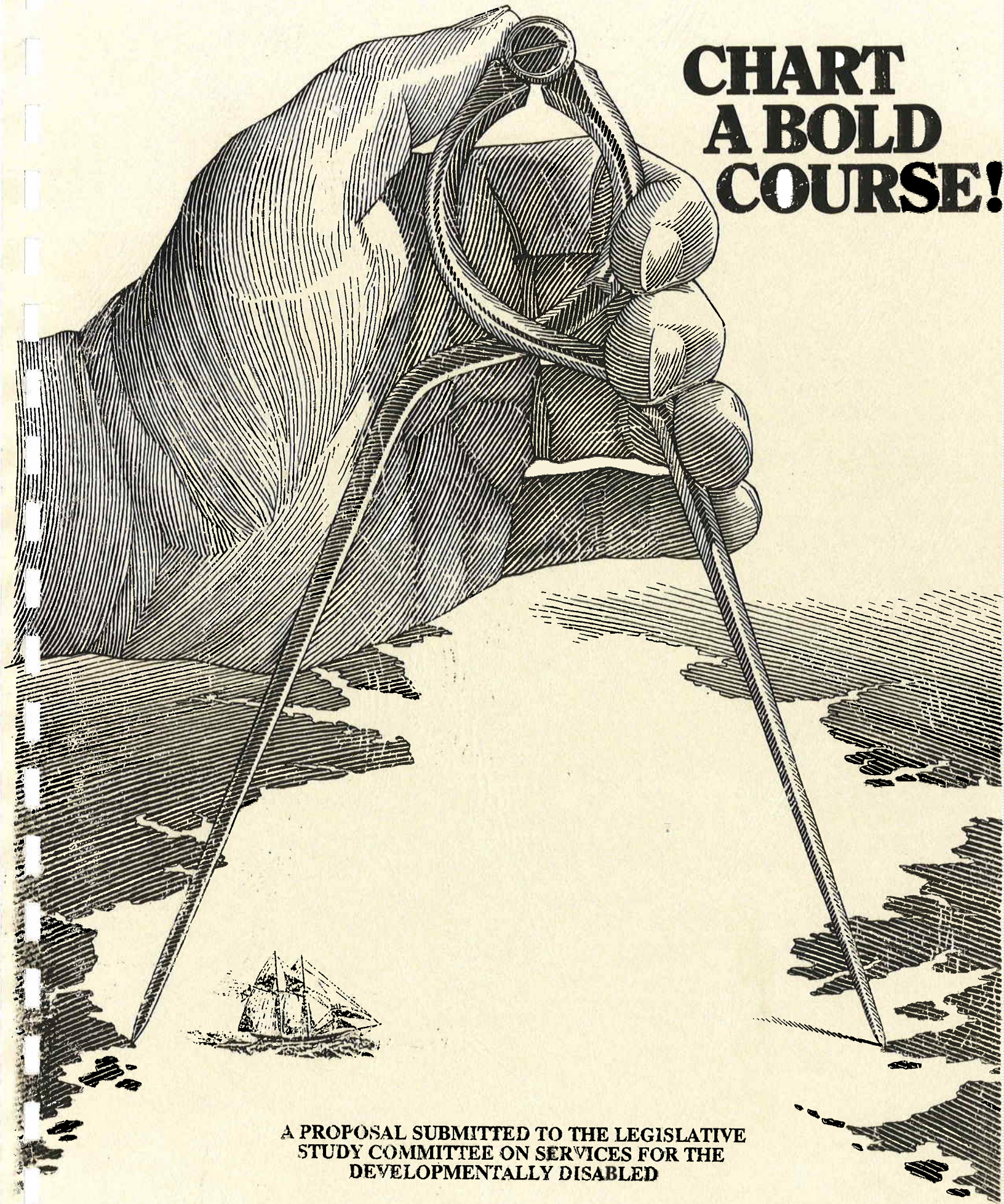


CHART A BOLD COURSE

1987

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A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE
STUDY COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR THE
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

INTRODUCTION

Rarely does state government have an opportunity to choose among distinct options for a service delivery system. The combination of existing laws and the conflicting concerns of ever changing state agency heads, legislators, chief executives and various groups causes government to change slowly. The current Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled (MRDD) delivery system comprised of state habilitation centers, regional centers, purchased services, and licensure illustrates the problem.

This mixture of bureaucracies has created an atmosphere of distrust, led to costly inefficiency, and demonstrated little or no accountability for client progress. We will not belabor the current situation. As legislators, you know it well. The struggle with the system's financing and operational problems has resulted in your resolution to "make a thorough study of the health, education and training services, and facilities of the developmentally disabled."

Most of us who operate programs and see developmentally disabled persons daily believe **THE SYSTEM NEEDS REFORM**. Such a reformation poses a significant challenge; one we feel will prove insurmountable without legislative intervention. After working with this system for a number of years, we propose solutions for some of its problems. We also outline a new model of service delivery to allow continued restructuring and problem solving. The options we present have precedence in state government.

Each governmental service has two major constituencies: consumers who receive it and taxpayers who foot the bill. Consumers should receive the best services available, while taxpayers deserve to have public resources used efficiently. Missouri's public monies allocated to support services for developmentally disabled individuals should benefit both constituencies. The developmentally disabled should receive specialized care and treatment which assures their safety and promotes independence and self-sufficiency. The taxpayers should see the developmentally disabled learn to manage better despite their disabilities. Taxpayers should receive assurance that the maximum benefit is received for the money spent.

In the following pages, we suggest changes to achieve better quality, more efficient services for the developmentally disabled citizens of Missouri. **OUR RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENT NEW IDEAS AND DIRECTIONS WHICH INCORPORATE THE BEST OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM.**

