

Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE, 54TH SESSION

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Norman D. Glaser at 10:35 A.M. February 23, 1967 in Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Young, Howard, Mello, Glaser, Harris, Jacobsen, Bowler

Absent: Ashworth, Tyson (Ashworth in at 11:08)

Also present: Dr. Ravenholt, Director of Health and Welfare; Merv. Flanders, Services to the Blind; Grant Harris, Alcoholism Division; Dr. McAllister, Mental Hygiene Division, also director State Hospital; Lew Hardy, Chairman of Board, Alcoholism Division. Jim Roberts, Budget office; Bob Bruce, Budget office; also Mr. Dana Coffee, AA, Fallon, Nev. ; member of press.

Mr. Harris said they had asked for \$128,000, \$25,000 for 7 years and have 40 programs going in the field of education. Three broad programs are encompassed - preventive education, rehabilitation, research.

Fleischmann Foundation has helped, city of Reno and others. He said 3% of alcoholics are from skid row, 97% from our best homes. They are going to lose some rehabilitation facilities. They are feeding people for as low as .19¢ a meal. Chairman Glaser asked how many rehabilitation center there are and was told there are five in the state. Some big groups are contributors, some business people in the community give \$100 a month. They think state should pay \$1,000 a month, 1/3 of \$3500. They would like to have a full time office in Las Vegas where 60% of the problem is and think a small percentage of the liquor tax would support it. Discussion of Agency request for \$66,000 - Page 226.

Mr. Hardy spoke, saying alcoholism in State of Nevada is Number 1 in the United States working under the smallest budget for the division. He felt it would do much for the image of the State of Nevada if something is done about the problem. Mr. Coffee, active in Alcoholica Anonymous in Fallon area, told of work done there. Chairman Glaser asked how many counties have programs like the one in Churchill County. Mr. Harris said it was done as an experimental thing just there. Results are in a booklet available at his office. Forty schools covered in one year. This is only state with teachers' manual put out on alcoholism.

Dr. Ravenholt discussed, said he thought matching federal funds would be available.

Alcoholism Group left, 11:10 A.M.

Services to the Blind, Page 228. Merv Flanders, speaker for group, read statement in Braille. He said they would be out of program funds by May 1 of this year. One of group passed out statement of justification.

State Hospital - Page 202. Dr. McAllister discussed. He said they required continuing travel money, travel between home base and outlying clinics. Out of state travel. Discussed new positions.

Mental Retard Budget - principally federally financed. - Page 207. Mr. Harris asked about 4 cottages in Las Vegas. Mr. Mello asked about four here. Are children put in with grownups? Dr. Ravenholt said they would like to have four here, but budget proposes 4 there. Discussion.

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Discussion of how many patients in State Hospital. Mentally retarded, 170; Geriatric, 130; Neuro-psychiatric, 250 - total, 550. When asked if 170 was limit of capacity, Dr. Ravenholt said he felt they had no right to set a limit. Mr. Harris said he thought they were overloaded, under staffed and underpaid at the Hospital. He said he had heard the nurses were going on strike. Decided to defer this until Monday. Chairman Glaser discussed pulling psychiatrist out of girls and boys' schools and using this money out of the budget for treatment, is this being set up? Answer, if we could set something up here, could base them in Reno. Mr. Roberts - removal of 2 positions at Elko and Caliente - would have to be some changes. Are in the process of changes.

State Hospital - most serious need in terms of positions. Discussed Nurses' strike. They are more concerned at the moment with the effective date of the salary increase. Concerned about travel. Additional need is for improvements in order to get accreditation, capital improvements. Page 210, 212, 213. Dr. McAllister said 12% of admissions were inebriates. Mr. Roberts said because of typographical error as to funds 67-68 total column reads \$2,170,807; should be 2,315,807. Discussion of farm program. No longer raising hogs. Decision to have field trip to state hospital and talk to nurses at that time re salaries. Discussion of fact some operating programs at hospital would have high priority. Chairman Glaser asked if they could list priority of some programs in order of importance for the Committee within the next two weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Norman D. Glaser, Chairman

Agnes M. Nelson, Committee Stenographer