

MINUTES OF MEETING - WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
1968 SPECIAL SESSION - FEBRUARY 6, 1968

The meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order by Chairman Glaser at 3:35 PM.

Present: Glaser, Mello, Ashworth, Bowler, Young, Howard, Webb,
Tyson, Jacobsen

Absent: None

Mr. Glaser told the committee that he and Senator Lamb had decided upon appointing a special research committee composed of 2 members from each committee (Ways and Means and Senate Finance) to expedite the study of the Title XIX matter. He called for volunteers - anyone especially or vitally interested in this area. Mr. Webb and Mrs. Tyson volunteered and were appointed to represent Ways and Means on the joint research committee.

Mr. Jacobsen observed that one of our problems seems to be the operation of the Health and Welfare Division together. They don't seem to know what they are doing, and where they are going.

Mr. Ashworth commented on the federal government aspect - the effect if we did not have this federal money. Some analysis has been made but he would like to see another computation on whether or not the federal government is really going to take money away from us and how much, if a percentage or all.

Mr. Bowler spoke for Clark County on studies which have been made showing that if we reverted back to the counties, Clark would be much worse off than the state is now.

Mr. Howard said he would like to find out how many people are participating rather than the number of 12,000 eligible (individuals not cases).

Mr. Glaser commented on the problems presented by differing figures being given to the committee now and last session. The level of medical indigency was set at \$2400 in previous discussions; now it is up to \$3300. Perhaps the joint committee could look into lowering this level for Title XIX but not for the other areas of aid.

Assemblyman Tim Hafen commented on the lack of controls on the people claiming and possibly not really eligible for these services. He felt that if this fell on the counties, they would investigate the case more thoroughly.

Mr. Bowler commented on the misuse of the ADC program as he has witnessed it in Clark County.

Mr. Webb commented on the attitude of the case workers - their seeming feeling that their very existence in their job depends on the number of individuals they put on aid. He felt we must put some kind of control on over-zealous case workers. Mr. Jacobsen supported this position.

Mr. Oliver presented an example of what might be considered a typical actual payment to an ADC family of 4. The payment of \$3.30 per month per person was determined by the Welfare Division and by analysis of the case worker on what the family's needs would be. Their need was \$300 for rent, food, etc. minus resources - in this case 0. Their unmet need was determined to be \$178 (the \$300 minus the \$30.30 per person). This was multiplied by 20% and the resulting \$36 added to the \$122 (\$30.30 times the number in the family - 4). This \$158 multiplied by 12 gives a grant of \$1,896 for one year. Under new regulations this would be closer to \$2500. Mr. Barrett said that this sets the level also for ADC under Title XIX. As for the APTD, he doesn't know but would hope it was the ADC formula.

Mr. Glaser asked for the background on the county situation, inasmuch as they say they are still saddled with a load. Mr. Barrett said that he had met with the County Managers from Washoe and Clark Counties and asked them to develop figures pertaining to this. Washoe indicated that they would like the state to pick up the remaining costs for indigents not now being picked up by the state at a cost of approximately \$255,000. However, the counties do not have any figures to tell you who these people are.

Mr. Ernest Newton commented that he doubts the counties are picking up that much. Most general assistance is in the form of gasoline money and such to get these people to leave the area. He agreed with the previous discussion as to the problem being the case worker.

Mr. Young commented that a number of case worker positions have not been filled. This is not the solution, however, because we do not have enough case workers now to investigate eligibility. If we could get case workers trained the proper way in Title XIX, this should help.

Mr. Barrett commented that Walt Merrell's background as a hospital administrator is better than a case worker type of background and this should be a good approach.

It was announced that Thursday's agenda would be changed - the 9AM meeting being held at 9:30 AM.

Mrs. Tyson made announcement concerning a Feb.13 meeting with the Assembly Education Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4PM.