

## MINUTES

## Assembly

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 57th SESSION

March 5, 1973

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:05 AM in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Present: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Schofield, Messrs. Dreyer, Hafen, Prince, Smith, Howard, and Robinson. Mr. Capurro had an excused absence.

Also Present: John Dolan, Randy Webb and Bob Dimmick

Motion to accept the Minutes of the meeting of March 1, 1973, was made by Mr. Dreyer. Second by Mr. Robinson. Motion passed.

Introduction of Judy Monk who presented the agenda and a brief introduction of what the testimony would contain today.

1. Minimum of \$67.00 average grant for ADC.
2. The coverage of families with unemployed fathers.
3. The dual programs of commodities and food stamps.
4. Medical coverage for the needy.
5. Statewide plan for child care.
6. Emergency assistance.

It is felt that these programs can be funded within the Governor's recommended budget. To set the State's first priority as the children of the State and to set aside enough money for their care, health and well-being. Appropriation of \$18 million for the biennium to go to the \$67 grant which would allow the inclusion of children whose fathers are unemployed.

Ruby Duncan from Clark County - \$67 grant: Federal participation in the \$67 average grant would be \$34.00, with State matching of \$33.00. Projected cost of \$18.2 million for the biennium. Although this amount is higher by some \$8.5 million, it can be offset by the surpluses of the last biennium and those from the coming biennium.

Only 65% of the total annual value of commodities goes to family distribution. The remainder goes to hospitals, schools, institutions, etc. According to Miss Duncan's figures, a family of four receives only \$32 per month, not \$85 as was stated by the Welfare division.

Mandy Pino, League of Women Voters - AFDC-U (Aid to Families with Dependent Children with Unemployed Fathers). Request for implementation of the AFDC-U program in Nevada. Funding for this program is the same as for ADC; \$22 Federal, \$10 State. Eligibility criteria are very rigid and do not allow abuse of the program.

Projected cost for the biennium would be \$676,560, based upon the Governor's recommended 10% increase in the average monthly grant.

Implementation of this program would decrease the tax burden; bring money back to Nevada to stimulate economic growth; and, would provide tax relief for employers of AFDC-U fathers.

"The AFDC-U program would put Nevada on the side of keeping families intact."

Sister Mary Littel, Franciscan Center, Las Vegas - Administrative Costs of Welfare Budget. \$4,371, 787 in State funds for the next biennium for welfare administration, this compares with a total state appropriation of \$3,523,718 for the current biennium. The program statement in the budget attempts to justify these requests on several alleged factors: (1) an anticipated increase in the ADC caseload due to the expected rise in the average grant; (2) the new Social Security amendments of 1972 (supplemental security income) according to which the OAO caseload will double; and (3) under the SSI the ADP caseload could increase ten times. However, the OAO caseload is projected to decline and although the caseload for APDT and ADC are projected to increase the present staff should be more than adequate to cover same, because of the decrease in caseloads of OAO, Aid to the Blind, etc. Under SSI the Federal government will, if the State opts for it, take over the eligibility and payments in all the adult categories and assume 100% of that cost. If the State continues to do eligibility and payments the Federal government will only participate at 50% of administration costs. If AB 178 becomes a law, would not allow the State the option of giving the Federal government the administration at total Federal dollars.

Our suggestion for an appropriation of \$3,523,782, for administration costs is based on fact and utilization experience.

Evelyn Proctor and Nancy Gomes, Medically Needy. Mrs. Proctor pointed out that a person has to be an ADC recipient before they have any type of medical care.

Mrs. Gomes pointed out a difference in the amount of money appropriated for FY 72 and the amount of money actually received. It was also noted that the Welfare Dept. did not spend as much money as they actually had to spend.

Early Periodic Screening: 12,060 children eligible at \$129.30. There is a screening center in California which has made a bid for all services at \$31.00 per child. The figure of 15,000 to 18,000 is a more realistic one. Also, the potential 6,050 recipients for APTD is at least 3,000 high.

Roxie Claiborne, Washoe County, Day Care Centers. Request for state provided day care centers on a 24 hour a day basis. Asking for money to pay for a coordinator and staff to get Federal funds and to

develop some type of statewide plan of day care centers.

Susie Smith, Clark County, Day Care Centers: Approximate cost of day care centers in Las Vegas is \$150 per month. Federal money is available for day care in Title 4 a and b and HR-1 will have funds for day care. Request for passage of legislation for day care centers.

Darlene Fortney, Citizens for Community Action, Henderson. Statistics given of the number of women working and the number of day care facilities available. Request for family day care centers with all children of a family in one center.

Assemblyman Crawford presented a further explanation of the amendments to A.B. 178. "The bill deals with mailing of welfare checks to welfare recipients. The purpose of the amendment is to exclude some programs taken over by HR-1 and with that the Federal government will assume the full cost of administration of the programs and the purpose of the amendment is to delete the programs that can be funded by the Federal government so that the State will not have to bear the burden of these costs.

Gene Grotogut, Chairman of the Washoe County Democratic Party. Is here by resolution of the Central Committee to present the party position on welfare in Washoe County. The following eight points are made:

1. Party calls for a major increase in the level of aid for dependent children above the present support level of 55% of need.
2. Aid for families in need which have unemployed fathers in the home.
3. A full state program for the permanently and totally disabled.
4. A new statewide food stamp and commodity food program.
5. Expansion of Title 19 medicaid eligibility standards.
6. Adoption of family emergency assistance program.
7. Adoption of work incentive program to all counties.
8. Development of State supported child care centers with sliding scale fees for use by the near poor.

Erma O'Neal, Las Vegas, Food Stamps. Reversion of money into the economy with the sale of food stamps to the needy.

Eloise Russell, Clark County Welfare Rights Organization, Las Vegas. Request for food stamps and commodities. Comparison of food costs since 1969 and the increases in food prices. Although the needy receives approximately \$80.00 worth of commodities in one month, this is not everything a family would need in the way of food staples. It contains too much in the way of starch products. Costs were presented for providing meals for a family; fuel, food, transportation, etc.

Richard Siegel, Reno. Presented points on why the overall approach towards welfare programs should be much more generous. (1) Legislative Commission report advocating specific programs. (2) Have had a history over last two years of a very strong tightening up on eligibility of welfare recipients - now we can be generous to those that have survived. (3) To relieve the counties and their taxpayers and take more responsibility for support on the State level. (4) Multiplier index of dollars that are put into the State by Federal funds. (5) The Federal government is taking over the adult grant programs as of the middle of next year. This will enable us to be more generous in the area of programs for children.

Maya Miller, Washoe Valley. Recommendation of the expansion of the family food program to include food stamps as well as commodities. Solution recommended is cash assistance to be able to buy in the open marketplace. Estimate in the budget of \$438,608 for food stamps in Clark County is highly inflated. Our estimate for the dual program for the entire state would be \$150,000. Figures were also listed of money that was not used last year by the Welfare Department.

Bernice Moltin and Clemencia Jabbs - Housing, Education and Emergency Grants: Need for improved welfare system from the perspective of an educator. Poverty and welfare cases beget poverty and welfare cases. There is a very close relationship between poverty, malnutrition and physical and mental development. The Legislature can do much through welfare to take care of some of the problems and burdens that have been placed at the educators doorstep.

Clemencia Jabbs, Citizens for Community Action, Henderson. Supporting the Emergency Assistance. Federal funds available to start this program. Federal government will pay 50% of assistance expenditures, 50% of administration costs and 75% of cost incurred in providing services. Average cash grant per person per year is \$46, caseload about 1% of AFDC recipients. Cost to State for the biennium: \$111,178. The counties are currently meeting these needs at total cost because they cannot get Federal matching funds.

Harriett Trudell, Washoe County; Presented the Committee with the 1972 State Democratic Party Policy Re. Welfare. The Governor's recommendation of an increase in ADC payments will be no solution because the grant is still inadequate to meet the real needs. Nevada has the second highest per capita income in the nation, we have no reason to deny survival with dignity to all of our citizens.

Rev. Herb Osman, Clark County Ministerial Assoc. Adequate level of assistance must be found. Support of food stamps rather than commodities if both programs cannot be instituted. In support of full medical coverage for the permanently and totally disabled.

Summation by Ruby Duncan. Final analysis: A seeing-eye dog gets more for meals than do children under the Welfare grant. What is the Committee's priority?

Mr. Jim Bilbray was asked if he had any comments. He stated he was here on another matter, but that he did support the plight set forth by the women here today.

Harvey Thompson for the Foster Parents' Association. First of all, a foster parent is not a parent that is on welfare. They are parents that have opened their doors to take in children of all types. A comparison of monies paid for foster children's care in the State was given to the Committee. A foster home receives less than one-half of the lowest pay of any foster child care by the State.

Barbara Jones, Clark County Welfare. Medical need has been provided in part by the County. This year so far, 6 months, on medical need costs the county has spent 1/2 million dollars. Need state support so that the county does not run in a deficit this year. Food stamp program be started in Clark County and that the surcharge not be continued. Also requested support of the AFDC-U program.

Joe Braswell, Inter-Tribal Council Social Services Program. Support of ADC grants is on the basis of inequities presently in the program. Pointed out to the BIA that by applying State welfare standards at 100% there were still inequities. Chart was passed out which pointed out the Nevada State Welfare Division Standards of Assistance. See attached. Support of the AFDC-U program.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40