

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Senator Lamb was in the chair.

PRESENT: Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Warren L. Monroe
B. Mahlon Brown
James I. Gibson
William J. Raggio
Clifton Young
Archie Pozzi

Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst
Bob Tripp, LCB Deputy Legislative Auditor
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Cy Ryan, UPI

Fr. Lewis Vitale, Franciscan Center, Las Vegas
Thomas E. Wilson, Comprehensive Health Planning
Ernie Gregory, Health Division
John Carr, Health Division
Lillian Bergevin, Health Division
Gene Pieretti, Budget Division, Fiscal Analyst
Bill Halvorson
Sr. Carole Hurray, Franciscan Center
Maya Miller, Coalition for Alternatives to Welfare
Eloise Russell, Clark County Welfare Rights Organization
Janice Webb, "
Susie Smith, "
Ruby Duncan, "
Emma O'Neal, Poor People Pulling Together
Sylvia M. Leaks, "
Dr. James Shields, University of Nevada Reno
Kenny Guinan, Clark County School District

HEALTH, WELFARE & REHABILITATION DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - Page 227:

Roger Troundy, the administrator of HWR said that they had a federal mandate that they must separate the social services from eligibility and payments. He felt that these divisions actually service one another and they could not do this without damaging the program, so they had a tentative proposal to the federal government to continue with the program, so to get around this if this were not approved they moved up into the director's office budget the deputy director, administrative secretary I, and state planning coordinator (the last three positions under existing positions on page 227). The support staff from welfare has also been moved up to the director's office, and that is back on page 314, and takes in data processing, accounting, and support services that serve those areas of welfare.

Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Two

(However, later in the legislative session they found the federal government did approve their existing structure and they did not have to do this.) The positions they proposed moving around were not new positions but just shifting of existing positions.

Under new positions in the budget the personnel officer III would be because personnel operations are getting complex. Many of the small agencies in the division are finding that the administrators are spending a good deal of their time working with personnel situations and keeping up with rules and regulations. The personnel officer could then represent the department at meetings and hearings.

The next new position is for a principal auditor because the director's office currently does not have any fiscal capabilities or anyone fiscally oriented and there is a phenomenal amount of money going through the office. Also there are more funds that go through the department and into communities for them to operate their programs, and they need to follow up on some of those to see that they are properly using their funds, and they have to monitor and audit these programs. Mr. Barrett does this now as does his division heads, but it is difficult to see this operation from the total departmental view.

There is also a new position for chief of planning, research and program development which would be to coordinate grants. Mr. Trounday said, "I am constantly being put on the spot in the department of having to either approve or disapprove of various federal programs which come along and doing this with very little data. I feel if I were able to tie in all the grants and find out who they serve and what their purpose is, I would have a better picture and do some accurate planning so we could tell in what direction we're going so that if federal guidelines change on us or new programs dropped on us we will find out whether that program has influence. Sometimes they don't suit a particular state. By doing accurate planning this will alleviate some of this crisis reaction action that we have right now."

Senator Lamb mentioned that they had increased their total budget by 100%. Mr. Trounday said that the reason for the increase is because, "I'm always having to go somewhere else to get the necessary information. It gets to the point where communications in the division are badly fragmented because of the lack of support staff."

Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Three

Mr. Barrett said, "This office has never acted as a director's office in the past as a director's office should have because they have never been staffed in order to even find out what the various divisions were even doing, let alone to give them direction. We are attempting to give direction now and to staff it so they can find out what is going on in this agency and give them supervision and direction."

The reason for the \$101,065 for legal and court expense on page 228 is because all of the attorneys were transferred over to this budget, and this will show up later in the budget also. There are 6 attorneys in the agency, five were in the welfare division and one was in the director's office, but they are now putting them all in the director's office, and this is to equalize the load and see if they can't get federal funding.

OFFICE OF STATE HEALTH OFFICER - Page 229:

Under new positions they are asking for an accountant because Mrs. Bergevin needs assistance as she has 15 accounts to deal with. The bio-statistician is to try to increase their capability to retrieve data. As it is now they don't get any statistics on anything but births, marriages, deaths, infant mortality, and some very common data like that. They would like to pick out cancer mortality, etc.

The other building rent, \$18,000, is actually for 1620 Shadow Lane in Las Vegas.

With regard to the biostatistician, they want to find out for instance, a few years back when they had arsenic in the water in Fallon, Churchill County wanted to have statistics but they were unable to provide them. They also want to do work on sickle cell anemia, lead poisoning, etc., which they now have to retrieve by hand, and they have no system for getting this out.

Mr. Barrett said the accountant requested was to work with the controller's accounting system. He said, "This is one agency that has never really completely converted to the controller's accounting system, and at this point they are very lucky and thankful, and so are we that they have not, because they can tell where they are." Senator Raggio asked, "Is this round two?"

Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Four

MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE HEALTH DIVISION - Page 231:

The meat inspection program is half federally funded and half state funded.

BUREAU OF LABORATORY AND RESEARCH - Page 233:

The new positions are a clerk typist for Reno, a stock clerk for Reno, and a serologist for Las Vegas (Serol-Bacteriol II). The clerk typist is for an increased workload in Reno. The stock clerk is to utilize a person less skilled than the technicians. The serologist is in line with our plans to beef up the venereal disease program and to give retesting in that area now that the systems and accuracy are up where they ought to have it. (I'm sorry folks, I'm just repeating what the man said.) This is to retest for venereal disease. The stock clerk is needed to relieve technical personnel now handling the shipment of supplies and the inventory of those supplies. Nevada is the second or third in the nation insofar as syphilis is concerned as of last year.

DENTAL HEALTH - Pages 236-238:

The new positions are for a clerk typist for Reno, a public health dentist for Las Vegas, and of the three dental assistants they have asked for one for Reno and two for Las Vegas. One of the Las Vegas dental assistants would be a transfer of the individual who is now an EEA employee there to the health division as a state employee. So while there would be two dental health positions in Las Vegas, one would be making the present EEA position a permanent state position.

The contractual services are for private practicing dentists for rural areas. This saves money because it would be more expensive to send dentists into these areas and pay them travel time.

In Clark County the dental load in this agency is 85% ADC cases or work and in Washoe County it is 40%.

MATERNAL, CHILD, SCHOOL AND SPECIAL CHILDREN - Pages 239-241:

This also has crippled children services and most of the family planning funds, and the special childrens clinic also. They have 15 existing positions and have asked for 9 new positions under agency request and the governor cut this down to 3 new positions in his request. They asked for social workers in order to relieve Clark and Washoe County 1 174

of the increasing task of filling out the crippled childrens form and helping to establish eligibility and to see if there could be any insurance recovery from those recipients who are also covered by private insurance (health) policies. They have also requested a position for a child development specialist for the Clark County special childrens clinic. Right now this position is being taken care of by a person in the Clark County school district who works nine months a year and there is no one there during the summer.

On page 240 there is a medical and dental expense of \$17,500 each year of the biennium. This is for immunizations and drugs. Under medical care near the bottom of page 240 of \$835,000 for the first year and \$920,000 the second year, this is an account for the dispensing of funds to hospitals, etc., in our crippled childrens program. This money is to expand our traditional services from orthopedic work, heart diseases, into services for cancer, leukemia, cystic fibrosis, etc. This fund was originally set up to help children with correctable defects, and now more and more things can be corrected. These diseases used to be thought of as hopeless, but now they find the survival rates are vastly improving.

There are full-time clinics for family planning in Las Vegas, Reno, and two in Carson City. We have family planning in the outlying areas in Elko, Ely, and Hawthorne on contract from medical groups in these areas. Six percent of the federal funds that come into this budget are required to be spent on family planning. We are more than doing this now.

Mr. Trounday said, "There is additional money now available for family planning through Title 19 on a 90/10 (federal/state) match." Mr. Barrett said that no final decisions had been made in Washington, D.C., about family planning, and according to what regulations are attached to this Nevada could get more or less than is now in the budget depending upon how tight or loose the rules are. Local funds can be used for the 10% to get matching 90% federal money, but the local programs have to be state approved in order to qualify for this. Mr. Barrett said that in the past the state and local governments have not availed themselves fully to take advantage of the federal funding available for this program. He said, "I think it can be done now if it is family planning for welfare related people." Senator Brown felt that the state had not done enough in this area or taken advantage of available funding, and he discussed the need for this at length. Mr. Barrett said that there was a lot of emphasis on this from the federal level and he did not see them reducing this area.

Mr. Trounday said that even though local units administer programs HWR is still the agency that has the responsibility to see that the local units are following federal guidelines and to audit the programs and their books.

Senator Brown said, "In Clark County we are getting considerable heat because they say there is untold money that the state could make available to these local units, but they're not doing it. As a result the counties and the cities have to support this."

Senator Gibson said, "With the emphasis on family planning isn't this related to the welfare program, and has it had any impact on ADC?" He also asked if the ADC rolls had been dropping. Mr. Trounday said, "They haven't dropped but they have maintained a plateau in the last couple of years."

Mr. Barrett noted that there would be changes in funding this year on Congress and that it would be about a year before they knew what the changes in the federal guidelines and regulations were. The federal formula is not even in written form yet.

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES - Page 242-244:

This bureau is involved with preventive medicine such as immunization, communicable disease, venereal disease, emergency medical services, chronic disease, tuberculosis control, etc. They currently have 28 existing positions and are asking for 6-1/2 new positions. They are requesting two emergency medical services coordinators and a clerk typist to be transfers from a project that is now in comprehensive health planning. The public service intern requested as well as the 2-1/2 student positions are efforts to allocate jobs in the state for summer students in health related fields.

On page 243 halfway down the page there is an item for prison inmate stipulation travel, this is for prison tuberculosis patients and is a \$1,000 item. These patients are kept in California institutions for treatment. They are sent to Las Vegas for diagnosis.

The bulk of the travel in this budget is nurses travel because many of the rural counties require the nurses to travel a good deal to the outlying areas to provide services. \$24,000 of the in-state-travel is directly allocated to the nurses. Washoe and Clark have their own nursing staff and this budget doesn't contribute to them. All the nurses in this budget are for outlying areas. The total in-state travel budget request is \$34,000, (1st year) and \$36,000 the second year of the biennium.

Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Seven

On page 244, drug (\$33,000 & \$34,000) and hospital care (\$55,901 & \$55,900) items are for tuberculosis. This incidence has been high, they had 50 new cases last year. To be eligible for assistance under this program they have to sign a statement that they are indigent (under the tuberculosis program). They also sign an insurance recovery form so that this division gets reimbursed any insurance payments.

Mr. Barrett said the first three positions in this budget are for the emergency medical services program. There is also \$10,000 in this budget for training of emergency medical services volunteers. There is also a \$75,000 one-shot item in the beginning of the executive budget to assist the locals in equipment. (The positions are the two emergency medical services coordinators and the clerk typist) This will give better emergency coverage primarily to the rural counties where they do need this assistance.

BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES - Pages 245-247:

This bureau is responsible for the licensing of all health and care facilities in Nevada such as hospitals, nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, adult group care centers, child care institutions, etc. There are currently 10 existing positions and they are requesting only a senior physician, range A under new positions to help them get better patient care. This is now a requirement under the federal regulations of HR-1.

Under contractual services on page 246, this is for the fire marshall's office so that they may inspect health facilities to see that they are fire safe.

MILK INSPECTION REVOLVING FUND - Page 248:

State law requires that they inspect out-of-state companies which ship milk into this state. The travel money to do this is repaid by the out-of-state companies.

VITAL STATISTICS - Pages 249-250:

This budget is basically unchanged.

Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Eight

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - Pages 251-254:

See explanation in executive budget. The guidelines for water pollution have not been forthcoming and they do not now know what their program grant is. However, they have been informed that their water pollution program grant will be increased. There will be a decrease in the Indian health in that the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be handling this. Under solid waste there were no provisions under this before, and Clark County also wanted to get into the planning effort and they discovered that for Clark County to receive federal funds that they would also have to have a program approved by the federal government. They did make an application and will receive a program grant for this, but it will terminate in fiscal year 1974.

Senator Raggio left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Under consumer protection, they request a public health sanitarian III to work in the Tonopah area to inspect food establishments, school lunch programs, swimming pools, public water supplies, etc. The committee was very critical of this and felt that there wouldn't be enough work in the Tonopah area to keep the sanitarian busy except on a part-time basis. They currently have a sanitarian in Elko, Winnemucca, Ely, and two in Las Vegas. Senator Brown said, "Why do you only have two in Las Vegas with a 300,000 population, and yet you have one for Winnemucca with a 4,000-5,000 population, one for Ely with a 2,000-3,000 population?" Senator Lamb said, "I think the tonopah sanitarian could go to Las Vegas." Ms. Bergevin said, "Clark County is serviced through the Clark County Health Department." Dr. Carr said they tried to service Tonopah from Las Vegas but the travel costs were expensive.

Under the air pollution program they will have 16 stations (monitoring) throughout the state and they are requesting they be permitted to develop a data processing program which would initially cost \$10,000. Currently this data is being accumulated by hand. It would cost \$4,000 for this the following year to maintain the program. This would enable them to retrieve information required by the federal act governing this.

Under special reports at the bottom of page 252 (\$5,000 each year) this is an ongoing program initiated in 1962. This is joint surveillance of Lake Tahoe between Nevada, California, and federal cooperation on the project. Nevada provides manpower, bacterial analysis, and funds

for the pollution report. California provides analysis and funds of \$10,000 for reports. Senator Raggio returned.

HEALTH AID TO COUNTIES - Page 255:

This program was previously funded entirely from federal sources. The funds were allocated between Clark and Washoe Counties with an arbitrary distribution of 60% to Clark and 40% to Washoe. There is now a request for \$120,000 in general funds with a reduction in federal funds to enable both Clark and Washoe to obtain additional federal dollars with the matchable state monies from the general fund. The federal funds deleted from this budget have been transferred to other budgets within the health division with a corresponding reduction in general funds there. Also, Churchill County used to have \$9,000 and are now requesting \$13,000, and Carson City used to have \$7,500 and is now requesting \$9,000 for pollution control.

Mr. Barrett said there was a one-shot item of about \$60,000 for equipment. \$20,000 of this will go for a mobile laboratory to do intensive stream studies to determine changes within the stream itself. The mobile lab would be in the field for stream studies and to monitor air pollution such as at the Kennicott site, etc. The rest of the funds are for technical equipment, SO₂ analyzers, and mainly equipment to support the air pollution control program. There is equipment for the radiological health program. Currently there is no equipment such as low level scanning equipment.

Senator Young asked if they worked with the district boards of health in enforcement. Dr. Carr said in the water pollution programs the state is the sole agent. In the air pollution Washoe and Clark County have their own programs, but it is the state's responsibility to see that the local agencies do conform to the overall state plan. Senator Young asked if there had ever been any charges brought against anyone for pollution. Dr. Carr said they had one on streams and that was a gravel plant in Minden and they were fined \$3,000. There haven't been any fines in the air pollution program but there have been several enforcement actions. Dr. Carr then corrected himself and said the fine in Minden was for air pollution and that there had not been fines in water pollution.

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM - Page 256:

This program is entirely federally funded. This is a continuation of channeling money through the state to the local agencies as was done in the past. Mr. Barrett said 179

Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Ten

"We do not review county budgets." There is an emphasis on rubella. Mr. Barrett's office wrote the statement in the budget, "This program presently is funded through June of 1974. It is understood that at such time as federal monies are discontinued the state will not have any obligation for the continuance of this program." Mr. Barrett said this was written because there is a social services and crime commission grant for a couple hundred thousand state dollars to put into budgets if federal money goes out, and this is one mentioned in that particular grant, if it was determined to be a worthwhile project to continue with state dollars.

PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARIANS BOARD - Page 257:

This is a board that is independent of the health division. They run their own program through their board. They operate on licensing fees.

MEDICAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATION - Page 258:

State law requires that medical laboratories be certified through the health division. Senator Raggio mentioned that he had heard discussion that private medical laboratories ought to be covered in this.

SILICOSIS PROGRAM - Page 262:

There are 13 recipients in this program. This program was started in 1961 and there were 25 applicants at that time. There are currently 6 survivors and 7 of the original 25 recipients. Each year they sign a statement that they are totally unable to provide for themselves. In order to come into the program initially they are hospitalized for two days and determined to be silicotic. This program was developed primarily for people who had worked in the mines who moved from one small mine to another and weren't covered then under programs. If a recipient dies or a widow remarries they are eliminated from the program. This program was developed for Nevada miners.

NIC SILICOSIS & DISABLED - Page 263:

This budget is not part of the health division proposals, but it was put under the health division for administrative purposes. This is a combination of two programs and this

is to take care of those individuals who have silicosis and have been receiving benefits but who have received the maximum lifetime benefits, and who are still silicotic and still need assistance. There is a proposal to take them out of NIC and not have their benefits paid by NIC any longer because their insurance premiums paid into NIC for these people beyond the amount covered by the insurance had been used up completely. In the first year the amount required would be \$112,741 and \$204,900 in the second. There are currently 59 silicotics in this category, and if all survive they would need \$104,900 for 1974-75, \$12,741 for 1973-74, and \$144,000 per year if all 59 existing silicosis pensioners survive.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING - Pages 259-260:

There are currently four applications per week for new health facilities. Almost half the hospital beds in Nevada are currently empty, and the aim is to prevent the waste of money this creates. During the next two years the budgets include almost \$100,000,000 for health services. A large part of that will go to hospital care. For instance, there is a proposed \$8 million specialty service hospital in Las Vegas where there is 700 assessed beds which cost about \$40,000 each, plus it costs about 2/3 as much to maintain an empty bed as a full bed. Because of this under HR-1 provisions no medicare or medicaid will go to hospitals that are violating state facility plans. Also this division makes review and recommendation of price increases of more than 6% to the price commission. In the nation hospital rates have increased an average of 13% last year. However, in Nevada there was only 1 increase that was allowed above 6-1/2% and that was in Hawthorne and it had been losing money for three years.


Also they are negotiating to put in an EMMA (Emergency Medical Mutual Aid network) which will give the two hospitals in Reno down to Tonopah a means to communicate with ambulance drivers.

There have been 66 applications for hospital beds approved during the last two years.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

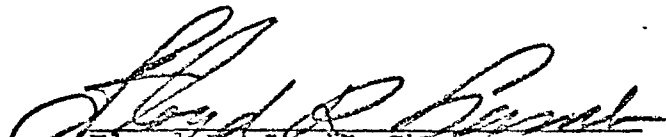
Senate Finance Committee
February 13, 1973
Page Twelve

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman