

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 14, 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
Archie Pozzi

Earl Oliver, LCB Fiscal Analyst
Bob Tripp, LCB Deputy Legislative Auditor
Howard Barrett, Administrator, Budget Division
Dr. Larry J. Miller, Administrator, Southern Nevada Comprehensive Mental Health Center
Victor J. Crecew, Supt. Nevada State Hospital
Roger Trounday, Director, Dept. of Health, Welfare, and Rehabilitation
John Mopphetti, Elko County Assessor
Jack Middleton, Dir., Mental Hygiene and Retardation
Robert Kerfler, Mental Hygiene and Retardation
Roger Zener, Mental Hygiene and Retardation
Joe Burnett, Mental Hygiene and Retardation
Carole Hurray, Franciscan Center
Sylvia Leaks, Poor People Pulling Together
Erma L. O'Neal, Poor People Pulling Together
Toun Vitale, Franciscan Center
Bill Halvorson, Franciscan Center
Ruby Duncan, Clark County Welfare Rights Org.
Susie Smith, " " " " "
Eloise Russell, " " " " "
Mya Miller
Hermine Franke, League of Women Voters

S.B. 45 - Summary - Provides per diem expense allowances and travel expenses for legislators serving on subcommittees and interim or special committees.

Senator Gibson moved that they amend and strike out lines 21 and 22, "Such salary shall be payable for membership on one subcommittee or committee only." Senator Monroe seconded this and it passed unanimously.

SB 107 - Summary - Increases the purchase price limit for certain state automobiles.

Senator Gibson moved to pass this bill. Senator Young seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. They noted that they felt the Governor would be allowed to continue to lease a car and would still have the option of leasing or purchasing.

SB 169 - Summary - Makes an appropriation for repairing granite veneer on legislative building.

Senator Young moved that they pass this bill. Senator Gibson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SB 104 - Summary - Removes requirement for raising private matching funds before spending appropriated funds to acquire Indian collection for Lost City museum and appropriates added funds for acquisition.

Senator Lamb asked if it was wise to make Mr. Perkins a permanent state employee with a statutory guaranteed lifetime job rather than allowing him to fill the position as a usual classified employee subject to rules and regulations of state service. The committee felt they would be setting a poor precedent to provide by statute that individuals fill specified positions. Senator Young moved that they pass the bill after amending that subsection (b) "R. F. Perkins, the curator of the Lost City museum, shall remain in the employ of the State of Nevada (unless discharged for cause) until he is retired from service pursuant to the provisions of chapter 286 of NRS." be struck out. Senator Gibson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DIVISION OF MENTAL HYGIENE - MENTAL RETARDATION - Pages 264-266:

The governor recommended five new positions: assistant administrator & program director, principal clerk steno, statistician III, and a management analyst II. They requested the statistician because they have no overall method of collecting data. Dr. Charles Dixon said he was necessary to determine the effectiveness of workshops, drug detoxification programs, etc. See other justification on page 266.

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The out-of-state travel is requested in part because three psychiatric positions have been unfilled for two years. They intend to go to conferences, etc., which psychiatrists attend to attempt to recruit.

The contractual services will be spent for such things as planning a drug detoxification program (\$4,000); moving the 90 geriatric patients out of the Nevada State Hospital and integrating them into community programs (\$3,000); developing a career ladder for the mental health technicians so they can be promoted as the rate of turnover is 45% a year (\$2,000); attempting to see that rural hospitals utilize their bedspace more (\$2,000). The entire programs are \$16,000 total and they are only requesting \$10,000 so they would have to cut some of these programs.

NEVADA STATE HOSPITAL (NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE) -
Page 268-271:

There are currently 332 employees at the Nevada State Hospital and it costs an average of \$35 per day per patient. The staff/patient ratio is about one to one.

The hospital is requesting \$30,000 for a study and survey to determine long-range plans for the institution. They plan to contract a landscape architect and a buildings architect within the study.

Mr. Barrett said they have taken the hospital budget and defined it into three separate budgets--the Reno Mental Health Center, Mental Retardation (Reno and Las Vegas), and Rural Clinics. He said they were doing this to provide better services and to expand such services. Dr. Carr, the State Health Officer, said they are proposing that an administration division be added so that one new administrator will supervise all divisions, of which the state hospital will be one. The superintendent of the state hospital will be under the direction of this new administrator, and the other divisions will be the Reno Mental Health Center, Mental Retardation (Reno and Las Vegas), and Rural Clinics.

They are requesting the funding for establishment of a new out-patient clinic in Henderson which is only ten miles from the Las Vegas facilities. Dr. Carr said the facilities were overcrowded in Las Vegas and there were not enough staff to handle the demands.

NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE - Page 271:

Mr. Carr said they were furnishing meals for employees (one meal per day per employee for three shifts). He said they did this by enabling statute.

Dr. Carr said they requested 101 new positions and the governor was requesting only 12 because they had expected to get federal funding for these positions but this fell through. They said they were requesting these positions partly because of the court decisions such as the right to treatment and court considerations of the right for patients to be paid for the work and services they perform within the institution. For instance in Alabama the courts made the state fund \$181 million in capital improvements and also funding into staffing. He also said that they were requesting more clerical positions because they were having difficulty with accreditation because they had a backlog of work needing to be typed.

They were asked why in view of the fact that the population was decreasing they were requesting a million dollar increase. Dr. Carr said they were developing and providing more services outside the hospital to keep people from needing hospitalization, and the emphasis was on out-patient needs which were causing the increase in funding. He said since 1967-68 they have increased out-patient services by 800% and hospital costs by 95%.

FACILITY FOR THE MENTAL OFFENDER - Pages 274-275:

Dr. Carr said they have 32 mental offender patients. They are asking for only one security officer because he felt it would be easier to train therapy technicians in the area of security rather than training security officers in the area of therapy. He said one part of the facility would be for maximum security patients and the other would be for medium security patients. Currently such patients are housed in the Nevada State Prison.

RENO MENTAL HEALTH CENTER - Page 276-277:

They currently make charges for services to patients but are requesting a principal account clerk to handle these charges. They are requesting in-state travel to provide for transportation for day care children in instances where the parents will not bring the children to the clinic. Also they want to continue workshops in Las Vegas.

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SOUTHERN NEVADA COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER - Page 278-281:

Dr. Carr said the travel request was because of a large staff and was primarily for furthering training by attending basic professional conventions, etc. He said the fact that travel funds were available for furthering training through professional associations were an aid to recruitment. Professional people want to know whether they can attend meetings and keep up with their field. They had an agency request for 67 positions, and the governor recommended only four. This was because they were expecting a federal grant which didn't materialize. The Southern Nevada Comprehensive Mental Health Center has an outpatient load of 68 persons and four professional staff members. There is a client increase of 55% per month.

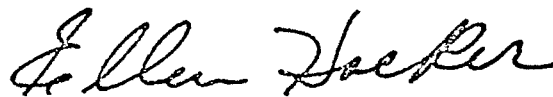
They request funds for autopsies and funerals because they very occasionally get indigents for whom the county refuses to pay such costs due to their lack of residency.

CLARK COUNTY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDRENS PROGRAM - Page 282-284:

This is a brand new program which will require legislation. This clinic will be located east of the freeway in Las Vegas and thus would encompass the west Las Vegas area. They have identified by name 200 children who are in need of this service. There are a number of cases where these children have gone through 15 sets of foster homes. This program will also be for training foster parents. Also see page 563 under 73-2 for the capital improvement request. They could lease facilities and still be qualified for federal grants. (There are no federal requirements for in-patient care.) But the agency plans to provide the facilities for in-patient care but the federal government will not provide funding for such care.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman