

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETINGS
FEBRUARY 23, 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
Cy Ryan, UPI

Bob Rodolph, Rehabilitation Division
Merve Flander, Services to the Blind
Millard Clark, Rehabilitation Division
Frank Holzhauer, Rehabilitation Division
John Aberasturi, Children's Home
Joseph H. Pritchard, Alcohol - Drug Abuse Division
Len L. Trout, Education Planning, UNR
Barbara Taylor, Research & Education Planning, UNR
Steve Robinson, Alcohol - Drug Abuse Division
Bud Orr, DETRAP, Reno
Steve Brown, "
Mary Jane Loper, SNDAC, Las Vegas
Orville A. Wahrenbeck, Dept. of Health, Welfare and
Rehabilitation
Roger Trounday, "
Del Frost, Rehabilitation Division

OASI DETERMINATION UNIT - Pages 324-325:

See explanation on page 325. Because this division will be making the eligibility determinations which would then be forwarded to the federal bureau of disability insurance, Mr. Frost said the workload in this unit would increase 100%. They fund physical examinations for applicants to determine disability. The average monthly grant to applicants is \$171. Mr. Frost said that if federal funds are cut, and federal funding is now somewhat undecided, he would probably cut staff.

DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES - Pages 326-327:

This program benefits primarily the mentally retarded and is of value screening pre-school children to determine damages and provide services to the retarded child. This program has been particularly involved in rural services

where communities sometimes lack resources, but they also have activities in Reno and Las Vegas. They work with 14 clinics and associations located in Elko, Carson City, Washoe County, Las Vegas, Panaca, White Pine, and organizations such as Easter Seals in Reno, the Rural Clinics Program, and the Retardation Division.

According to federal regulations this function had to become a separate division as the federal government felt if they simply funded it through the Rehabilitation Division some states would absorb the money and it would disappear and not go toward this specific purpose of helping retardation. Mr. Trounday said that they needed the \$10,000 from the general fund and if they didn't have that they wouldn't be able to fund the staff position which Mr. Holzhauser fills, and thus would not be qualified for federal funds. He said they then would not be able to operate this program. This program serves 275 to 300 people.

The committee was concerned with the problem of overlapping. They wondered how this program tied in or overlapped the rural clinics, mental health, or retardation division's programs and why it had been placed under the rehabilitation division. (See above for explanation.) Senator Raggio said he had difficulty understanding how these programs were integrated and requested a schematic plan on all agency divisions to see how they fit together and provide services. Mr. Trounday said that this is why this department needs an umbrella program through the director's office to coordinate all divisions. He said he would provide the schematic plan but at the present time he had no retrieval system to be able to do this and that he needed more personnel in his office to be able to coordinate and supervise divisions more closely.

Three percent or 1/24th of any given population has developmental difficulties and could use this program.

ALCOHOLISM & DRUG REHABILITATION - Page 328-330:

There is no increase in the alcoholism program. The increase is in the drug abuse program. Senator Lamb asked if this drug abuse program wasn't overlapping the Crime Commission's program. Mr. Trounday said that the drug abuse program in the Crime Commission is for law enforcement personnel primarily. The Crime Commission requested that the public education portion be transferred to the Alcoholism Division. The program which the Alcoholism Division will administer includes \$149,000 for training 5th and 6th grade teachers (and will be expanded to include 6th and 7th grade teachers) so that they may in turn conduct classes in this area for their students. In the past this was directly funded through the university but will now be funded through

Senate Finance Committee
February 23, 1973
Page Three

this agency, although the university will continue to conduct the classes. Senator Brown asked how much of the \$149,000 for narcotic education required matching funds. Mr. Pritchard stated that all of this was federal money for which no matching was required. Senator Brown asked if they would jeopardize the federal funds if they cut the \$337,000 general fund appropriation. Mr. Pritchard said that this is a new program just received January 1, 1973. He said local agencies have not had time to develop programs, but they will be writing programs and making applications in the near future, and when these programs are ready to go into operation they will need this \$337,000 in order to insure the federal funding. Senator Brown asked what would happen if they cut the \$337,000. Mr. Pritchard said that this would cut the teacher training program by \$149,000 as well as the new local programs described above. Mr. Trounday said that they do not nor will not provide direct delivery of drug abuse prevention or education programs but this agency would be responsible for audit and monitoring local programs to see that they meet the goals stated in the applications.

Of this \$337,000, \$72,000 will go toward alcoholism, \$117,000 for narcotics education and rehabilitation programs, 149,000 for teacher training in drug education. 100% of this is from the general fund.

Senator Gibson said it appeared that the federal formula appropriating money to alcoholism appeared to be being used up in overhead in alcoholism administration. Mr. Pritchard refuted this (see attached). He said the formula grant is not intended to fund programs entirely and forever, but just to get programs initiated. Senator Raggio asked about the \$12,000 figure for other government services on page 239. Mr. Pritchard said that this was a sum paid to the Rehabilitation Division for auditing and other personnel services.

Mr. Pritchard said that Nevada has the highest per capita consumption of alcohol, and that 10% of the population in Nevada was alcoholic. He said according to surveys made in Utah 42% of the welfare caseload is alcohol involved. Senator Brown said that there are 20 to 25 million tourists and he felt that they drank more than average while on vacation, boosting up the per capita consumption figures.

Senate Finance Committee
February 23, 1973
Page Four

ALCOHOLISM REHABILITATION FUND - Page 331:

This program is 100% federally funded. It is operated primarily as an alcoholism poverty program. The out-of-state travel is due to federal regulation which requires that the staff attend a minimum of two training sessions which are usually held in Santa Cruz, California or Phoenix, Arizona.

SERVICES TO THE BLIND - Page 332:

The first year of the biennium recommends an increase to \$494,383 from the current fiscal year appropriation of \$375,064. This increase consists of an additional \$24,000 for salary and payroll costs. \$6,000 of that is for increased retirement and other fringe benefits. The new position is for the vending stand program in Las Vegas. Currently this position is funded through the EEA program (the Emergency Employment Act). The rest is merit increases. The buildings and grounds increase in rent of \$10,000 is to move into expanded facilities in Reno and to move the facilities in Las Vegas to more accessible offices near public transportation as the current offices have a barrier of inaccessibility.

\$1,800 is for replacement of typewriters and equipment which are worn out. They are seven to twelve years old and the repair costs exceed their value. The costs of general medical examinations required to be given to each applicant have risen from \$15 to \$25.

The federal funds, Section 3, on page 332, involving \$25,000 has been withdrawn. They made the decision to hold positions vacant in order to make up for this money being stopped. Senator Gibson asked if their federal programs were in jeopardy. Mr. Flander said no, that only the \$25,000 was or would be cut.

The committee also discussed the appropriation request on page A-22 involving \$50,000 to establish a revolving fund for use in establishing vending stands.

AGING SERVICES - Page 335-336:

This division administers Title 3 and Title 7 programs. They are asking for a general fund appropriation because they must match 25% state funds to 75% federal funds. In the past they were allowed in kind funds and were allowed to count services and similar costs as part of this match. To continue to do this would jeopardize the federal funding.

This agency is serving 700 meals (through the meals on wheels

Senate Finance Committee
February 23, 1973
Page Five

throughout the state. If funds come through from the federal government beginning July 1 they will increase this to approximately 1,100. Recipients must be 60 years of age and are served primarily through financial need priorities.

Currently \$500,000 goes to Title 7, \$400,000 to Title 3, and \$200,000 for state administration.

TAXICAB AUTHORITY - Page 420-421:

The contractual services have dropped from \$6,500 to \$3,400 because in the past they hired an undercover agent on contract for about \$1,000 per month. Mr. Shefferd, the administrator of the Taxicab Authority felt this was unnecessary and they are now hired as needed.

Their biggest single problem is double loading at the airport. Double loading is legal, however the meter is to be reset as each passenger disembarks. It is difficult to control this because even if tourists realize they are being victimized, they don't stay in town for hearings. The first offense requires one to five day suspensions, the fifth offense could cause the driver's license to be revoked.

The in-state travel is high because this pays for cab fare when investigators ride cabs. Also this pays for trips to Carson City by the three-man board, auditor, and administrator, when it is necessary to consult with the Public Service Commission.

\$5,760 was excluded in this budget due to error. This money is for the Taxi Cab Authority's board member salaries. By statute they receive \$40 per day.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Hocker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman