

DATE: APRIL 9, 1975

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bennett
Vice-Chairman Christensen
Mr. Lowman
Mr. Murphy
Mr. Craddock
Mr. Vergiels

231

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mrs. Ford
Mr. Mann
Mr. Barengo

GUESTS: See Guest Register Attached.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chairman Bennett.

Myrl Nygren of the Nevada Health Division appeared in support of SB-91.

Mrs. Nygren stated that this bill was intended to provide licensing for two additional health and care facilities which they feel should be included in their rules and regulations. Mr. Lowman asked if the local building and health department and fire department didn't inspect these facilities and why it was necessary to duplicate this. Mrs. Nygren said that in order for the facilities to receive federal funds they must be licensed by the State. In answer to further questions by Mr. Lowman, she stated that the Health Division has not set a licensing fee for these facilities as yet, but it would be minimal; that under Chapter 449 the institutions are usually allowed one year to meet the licensing requirements; that Alcohol and Drug Abuse has requested they be included so they could be licensed by the State and thus qualify for federal funds.

Chairman Bennett then asked for testimony on AB-534 which would include chiropractic services in state aid to medically indigent.

Mr. LaBadie of the Welfare Division said the Committee should know that this bill does have a fiscal impact.

Dr. Laird of the Welfare Division said they were trying to estimate what the fiscal impact of this program would be. In 1973-74 NIC paid \$380,276 for chiropractic services. NIC estimates that this is about one out of seven of their load. So, for an unrefined estimate, the Welfare Division figures that about one-seventh of their welfare recipients on the roll might receive chiropractic treatment. This would generate a cost of \$20,000 or more.

- See Exhibit

Jeneane Harter of the Chiropractic Association appeared in support of AB-534. She stated that chiropractic has made a tremendous advances in the last 15 or 20 years, not only in the State of Nevada but in the nation as well. They are recognized by Medicare, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and they have some 14 accredited colleges throughout the United States. They are accepted by the Nevada Industrial Commission and by licensed insurance companies throughout the state.

232

Ms. Harter said that if you would look at this bill in terms of people rather than in terms of money, you would find that by allowing chiropractic to be included in aid to medically indigent, you are not going to have more people who are going to become ill, so it is not going to cost that much more. It is just a matter of a patient taking a choice as to whether he wants to go to an M.D., an osteopath, or a chiropractic. People should be allowed to make this choice.

Mr. Lowman asked if there are people on welfare who are now being treated by chiropractics. Ms. Harter said that to her knowledge there are two chiropractors, one in Carson City and one in Sparks, who do treat these people, but because they are not recognized they take care of them free of charge.

Dr. John Sande, Chairman of the Nevada State Medical Association Legislative Committee, stated that the Nevada State Medical Association has serious reservations about including chiropractic services under the Title XIX (SAMI) Program. A copy of Dr. Sande's statement is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

No action was taken on either of the above bills.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne, Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE

Date April 9, 1975 Time 3:00 P.M. Room 240

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

Do Pass 4-21
Hold
SB-91

Extends health and care facility classification to additional institutions.

Do Pass 4-21
Hold
AB-534

Includes chiropractic services in state aid to medically indigent.

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

NEVADA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

RICHARD G. PUGH, Executive Director
3660 Baker Lane
Reno, Nevada 89502 • (702) 825-6788

WILLIAM K. STEPHAN, M.D., President
JOHN W. CALLISTER, M.D., President-Elect
JOHN L. HOLMES, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
THOMAS K. HOOD, M.D., Immediate Past President
G. NORMAN CHRISTENSEN, M.D., AMA Delegate
RICHARD C. INSKIP, M.D., AMA Alternate Delegate

234

DOUGLAS HACKETT, Associate Director
810 East Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89105 • (702) 735-5141

April 9, 1975

Testimony of John P. Sande, MD, Chairman of the Nevada State Medical Association Legislative Committee concerning Nevada Assembly Bill- AB-534 relating to the inclusion of chiropractic services in the State Aid to the Medically Indigent Program.

The Nevada State Medical Association has serious reservations about including chiropractic services under the Title XIX (SAMI) Program. This stand is based on the following points:

1. Quality health care for recipients of Title XIX

Chiropractic is not a scientific method of treatment and is based solely upon the premise that a subluxated vertebrae (Palmer Method) is the cause of 95% of diseases. By the process of manual adjustments of the vertebrae not only will a back ache disappear, but other ailments such as diarrhea, ulcers, anorexia, etc. will be relieved. Treatment by chiropractors may delay vital treatment by medical doctors for such illnesses as cancer, heart disease, etc.

2. Increased cost to the Title XIX program.

While it may be true that chiropractic services are covered for recipients of the Title XVIII (MEDICARE) Program, these services are quite limited in scope. Reimbursement will be made to chiropractors for manual adjustments only of the spine of subluxations that can be shown to exist by X-Ray examination. No payments are made for heat treatment or massage. X-Rays taken by chiropractors in their offices are not covered by the program.