

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

February 18, 1975

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Howard, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wittenberg.

Mr. Weise was excused.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Dan Miles, Dr. Carr, Lillian Bergevin, Roger Trounday, George Miller and Dan Duarte.

Motion was made by Mr. Howard to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1975. Seconded by Mr. Bremner. Motion passed.

Dr. Carr explained the Medical Laboratory Certification program is designed to increase licensing. The Medi-Care program requires periodic proficiency testing. The New Position requested is an effort to meet the clerical needs.

The Bureau of Health facilities provide for Medi-Care certification and administering the Hillburton Health Facilities Construction program. The New Position requested is a Research Analyst who would keep up with the change in requirements occurring in the regulation of these facilities. Ms. Bergevin explained that the Contractual Services would provide contract services for certain specialties, such as: pharmaceutical consultants, pathology consultants, dietary consultants, engineering and construction consultants, etc., to look at the hospital operation. The Chief of the Bureau of Health is now also the Chief of the Bureau of Dental Health and receives an increase of 5% in salary. The workload of Dental has dropped considerably and they did not feel the need for two Bureau Chiefs.

Ms. Bergevin explained the Family Planning Project. This program was moved out of the Maternal and Child Health budget and set up by itself. The nurses have attended a six-weeks school in order to deliver the Family Planning Project. Dr. Carr explained that if the Federal Funds run out, the state would have to increase their funding or the programs will be stopped. The Medical and Dental expenses for this program are the birth control pills and devices used in the Family Planning program. The Equipment used are the examining table, stool, instrument shelf, etc.

The Bureau of Laboratory and Research is responsible for water and milk testing, VD blood testing, TB, and bacterial testing. Two lab assistants are requested under New Positions.

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The new lab for UNR which is project 75-47 was explained. Also Dr. Carr mentioned again that the Las Vegas lab will be moving to a new building and the building rent expense will be adjusted after the move. Also, the Furniture expense will be used to furnish this new lab. Mr. Dreyer asked why the Lab was being moved when it is already established and new equipment will have to be purchased and they already have equipment in the old lab. Mr. Carr stated that they wanted to keep all the facilities under one roof. They had some administration problems. They felt the children should not be taken so far away and the Special Childrens Clinic was lacking in being able to provide adequate supervision. Also they felt this would provide the ability to up-grade the lab. Mr. Trounday stated that the Health Department stated they were in need of more space, but found the funds to build new wings in their building and do not want to move.

Chairman Mello stated that last Session \$20,000 was appropriated for a lab study and asked if it had been done. Mr. Carr stated that the study done to decide whether to combine all the labs, only certain labs, or leave them alone.

Ms. Bergevin explained the Operational Supplies were technical material needed to operate the labs: test tubes, glassware, etc.

The Women, Infant and Children Food Supplement program was explained. There are presently two operations available and three are ready to begin

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in the rural counties. This program provides Women, Children and Infants a system of receiving supplemental foods which provide some sort of nutritional assessment. Mr. Trounday stated that losing these federal funds is a distinct possibility. Presently there are 2,529 people being provided these services.

Chairman Mello stated that he felt this was an important reason annual sessions are needed. If these funds are lost, the Legislation will not be in Session at the time they are cut off and the people need to be protected.

Ms. Bergevin stated that the WIC vouchers are used like food stamps. The amount of certain products are printed on the vouchers and the food must be separated at the check-out counter. She also stated that these recipients could possibly receive food stamps at the same time they are receiving these vouchers.

In the Diseases and Crippled Children part of the budget, a Principal Clerk Stenographer is being requested to help handle the increased load of processing payments and insurance forms. Chairman Mello stated that PH 314-D also may be lost here. Mrs. Brookman asked if they have cut down on sending child heart patients out of state as Nevada now has some very find doctos in this field. Mr. Carr stated that heart cases have increased and although they don't send as many children as before, they are still sending some. He also stated that there are various levels of staffing care required and some need full time care. A survey was done which commended Sunrise Hospital for their services for adults but it stated they were lacking in the services they were able to provide to children.

Ms. Bergevin explained that the Contractural Services were for pediatric care and other specialties. Mr. Carr stated that the Pediatric Director in Reno resigned and he has taken his place which saved some money. A new neurosurgeon is being used, but some of the services they were receiving for nothing, now have to be paid for. The One-Shot appropriation is to purchase an Echocardiograph machine. Dr. Goldberg is presently bringing his with him from California.

The Medical and Dental expenses provide drugs and biologicals for immunization of children throughout the state. The Aid to Counties was explained as providing nursing services to the Special Childrens Clinics in Clark County and Washoe. Ms. Bergevin stated they felt it was better to purchase these services from an on-going unit rather than adding a single body themselves.

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The Milk Inspection Revolving Fund provides for people to go to other states to inspect the dairy facilities that provide milk for Nevada. The other State must reimburse Nevada for this visit. Mr. Carr stated that this revolving fund might be eliminated.

The Developmental Disabled Children is totally federally funded. They check children who may have mental retardation or organic problems. They utilize the Special Children's Clinic in an effort to increase the recovery and the potential of the child. They feel it is better to teach them certain things so they can be at home rather than in an institution.

Bureau of Community Health Services includes VD, TB, Health nurses and Immunization programs, physical therapy and nutritional consultants. The New Position requested is an Institution Nutritionalist who would provide consultation to crippled children and well babies. They are presently doing their own clerical work and are also requesting this position to help with this clerical work.

Medical and Dental expenses take care of the purchasing of drugs for Venereal Disease. The Prison Inmate Travel is the transportation of TB patients. The Supplies provide films and pamphlets used for education. Lincoln County hires their own nurse. 40% of this is paid for by the County and 60% is paid for by the State. This 60% is both federal and State funds. Ms. Bergevin explained the Home Health Agency. This Agency provides services through nurses and LPN's which allows elderly people to receive treatment prescribed by a physician at home. Also, if a mother has small children at home and as had surgery, they provide care for the children.

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The Aid to Counties is a TB contract with Clark County. The Drugs are for the TB program. Mr. Carr stated that the funds have decreased and the drugs are getting more expensive. The hospital costs have gone up but the patient stay has decreased. The Hospital Care is for TB in-patients.

The Emergency Medical Services was explained by Dr. Carr. New Positions requested are two Field Reps to be placed in less populated areas. The One-Shot is to supply training and ambulances. The Contractual Services is to provide the teachers who would provide the training.

The Gonorrhea Screening Project is totally federally funded. This is an effort to do something about the skyrocketing increase in Gonorrhea. Mr. Carr also stated that the federal funds will be reduced.

The Immunization program was explained. They provide Education Supplies which are information pamphlets and films on this subject. They try to educate the parents and the school system before they begin the clinic. The Federal Government no longer provides this information free and Dr. Carr stated that selling preventative medicine is very difficult.

The New Position requested in the Consumer Protection is a Public Health Engineer Inspector. The number of food and drug recalls have increased and they inspect the shelves. Also follow-ups must be done for the drug recalls in hospitals.

The Cancer Screening Project provides cancer screening for women ages 15-44 and is totally federally funded.

There are ten silicosis recipients who receive \$50 per month in medical and they receive compensation.

The Renal Disease Advisory Committee was explained. They have an effective program but they need to have a larger population of people with the disease.

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The Welfare Administration was then explained by George Miller. John Duarte explained that the budget is a cumulative budget which oversees the programs. The primary budget is responsible for the support of these various budgets. There have been several major changes in staffing. The unclassified position of Ophthalmologist was eliminated due to the federal take-over of adult patients. The Welfare Investigation I position will not be renewed. In the District Offices, one Senior Clerk Typist position will not be renewed the first year of the biennium and in the second year, another position will be eliminated. The reason for the cut is the case-load was estimated to be increased and the case-load did not increase. Mr. Bible stated that he felt these positions would be transferred to other places as there are always vacancies in the Welfare Department. Mr. Duarte stated that also a Social Worker I and two Eligibility Workers will also be cut. Eleven positions have been transferred to Food Stamps: two senior clerk typists, one eligibility worker III and eight eligibility workers II.

The New Position requested is a Social Service Specialist who would handle the social services contracts. An Accountant and Senior Account Clerk are also requested because of the burden Food Stamps has placed on their payroll.

Mr. Miller explained that 297 positions were requested and the Governor requested only 3. He stated that these positions were needed for the new programs. Chairman Mello asked Mr. Miller to supply the Committee with a list of positions he feels are necessary for the new programs which would benefit the people of Nevada. Mr. Robinson asked how much money would be needed to get these positions filled. Mr. Duarte stated that \$2.4 million would be needed to get the \$6.5 million of federal funds.

Mr. Duarte stated that the Legal and Court expenses reflect the salary of three Deputy Attorney Generals. Mr. Bible stated that they had five Attorney Generals, but one has now been cut. The Taxes and Assessments are the costs of Birth, Death and Marriage certificates and notary positions. Chairman Mello requested an explanation as to what happened to the Child Care and Family Planning. Mr. Miller explained that half of this was spent for Vocational Rehabilitation paying bills and that this will come under that budget. The Family Planning was just not recommended.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.