

MINUTES

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

February 19, 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, Mr. Weise and Mr. Wittenberg.

ALSO PRESENT: John Dolan, Bill Bible, Ed Burgess, Roger Trounday, Dale Frost, Maynard Yasmer, Roy Dowling, Merv Flander, and Jay Gardner.

The Nevada Youth Training Center budget was explained by Mr. Ed Burgess, Superintendent. He stated that they were budgeted for 120 boys, 5 cottages, with a reserve for growth of 20 boys. In April they had 157 boys which was over the 140 budgeted for. This supplemental request is due to the inflation and the lacking amount for operation and growth. There has also been an increase in utilities and the addition of a new dining room which must be heated. They would also like to purchase dishes for this dining room as they are presently eating from metal trays. They are also requesting pay for overtime accrued due to call-backs, maintenance problems, and employees taking sick leave. The average population is 122 boys and presently they have 155 at the institution. They have had an 82% success rate with boys on parole. He stated that this program has many major areas with the primary area being academic education. Institution, Youth Parole, ESEA Title I and the Supplemental make up the four parts of the budget.

The Capital Improvement Project 75-40 is to provide air-conditioning in the classroom building. Because of the hot temperature in the summer time, there are numerous behavior problems. The boys attend school 12 months each year.

Project 75-38 is an appropriation for an athletic field. Most of the boys are physically aggressive and they need a place socially acceptable for letting off steam. A football team would teach them team work, give them positive recognition and a possibility for athletic scholarships.

Project 75-33 would provide a gymnasium for winter recreation. They do not have a good physical education program which is needed by the boys and will also help eliminate any problems in ditching physical education when they attend a public school. This is the higher priority over the other projects.

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Project 75-1 is to improve and repair the roofs and lighting.

Mr. Burgess stated that they are requesting a building custodian who would have the direct responsibility to keep the buildings and rooms in satisfactory condition. They have tried using the boys and a supervisor but they feel no commitment to this program. Five Groups Supervisors are being recommended for the additional cottage and four Group Supervisors who would provide double coverage for one of the cottages on a 24 hour day basis. He stated they also needed a senior clerk typist primarily stationed in the academic school building who would also handle the attendance records. They feel the need to establish a 1-1 relationship with the child as a big-brother, father-son relationship. Most of the supervisors have recently graduated from college with degrees in Psychology and Sociology. Chairman Mello asked if the Psychologist III position recommended last session was filled. Mr. Burgess stated that this position was filled and they are very happy to be able to provide this counseling and testing. They now refer fewer boys to the State Hospital.

Chairman Mello felt that a lot of money was being spent for food. He stated that compared to the \$1.11 per meal per boy at the Boys School, the prison spends .57 per meal per man, the Mental Health Institute spends .61, the Girls School spends .66 and the Children's Home spends .86. He recommended that the sub-committee take a special look at the store-keeper and the process of keeping records. Mr. Burgess stated that they are unable to keep accurate records because they do not have the staffing for this purpose. Mr. Burgess explained that the Food Manager plans the menus and supervises the kitchen and cooks. He stated that they have difficulty in keeping cooks. He provides vacation relief for the cooks also. Mr. Roger Trounday stated that the counselors should be spending

Page 2

as much time as possible with the boys rather than doing the chores. They need the counselors for supervision and security and would prefer staff persons for the store-keeper position, etc.

Mr. Burgess explained that the Contractural Services is used for contracting doctors who come to the institution one day a week for 24 hours. They also provide chaplains, one Catholic and one Protestant. They provide religious counseling and religious institutional programs. A substitute nurse is also provided to relieve the main nurse during vacation and also gives shots in the evening rather than the main nurse having to work overtime.

The clothing and uniform allowance was inadequate. They need to provide clothing to help the boys establish individuality and pride in themselves. These include everyday clothes, a coat, kitchen uniforms and PE uniforms.

The increase of Medical and Dental expenses is due to the increase of boys and inflation. Dental work is a major part and surgical fees and hospital fees have increased. The medical supplies and drugs are a minimal amount. Chairman Mello asked if the parents had any obligation to the boys while they are at the facility. Mr. Burgess explained that if the family has insurance they will use it, but they do not bill the parents for services rendered. They use as much money from the parents as possible. Mr. Robinson questioned why they have not negotiated with the doctors for these services. Mr. Burgess stated that they pay the doctor his usual and customary fee because the doctor will not allow a lower cost possibly due to the isolation of the facility.

Mr. Burgess stated that the Vocational Education is a fictitious amount used to obtain money from the Federal Government. The TV provides for cable television hook-ups to the institution and the State Training allows the counselors to attend conferences, etc.

They have four Parole officers in Las Vegas, three in Reno and 1 in Elko. They are recommending another for the Tahoe-Minden area. They help with the Youth Employment Program and the Special Foster Care program. Each counselor has an average of forty boys and their work is mostly done in the field.

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Mr. Burgess explained the ESEA Title I which is a request for spending approval in the Special program for low achievers. This would provide three teachers, and teachers aid and a clerk typist. 50% of the lowest achievers are helped in reading, mathematics and the occupational program. Compared to the local school districts, the teachers at the institution start at a salary a little higher, but at the top salary, they are less.

Mr. Trounday then explained the Spring Mountain Youth Camp budget. He stated that boys are kept here rather than sending them to the Nevada Youth Training Center. He explained the Halfway House is a place the boys go from the Youth Camps before they are returned home or to a foster home. He stated that these boys go to a local school and live in the Halfway House. in order for them to adjust to living away from an institution.

John Aberasturi then explained Northern Nevada Children's Home. They have seven cottages with ten children in each cottage with a man-wife team. They have a supplemental request for utilities, food and operating supplies. They have spent 74% of the budget as of February 10, 1975. They are requesting no new staff, just enough to take care of inflation, with one exception. They are asking for an employee training coordinator to help the staff provide better services to the children. They would also like to replace the old school bus. The Stipend and Travel gives the children allowances but those children who are employed do not receive an allowance and are expected to help provide their own clothing and are encouraged to use banks.

The Capital Improvements Program Project 75-39 is a request for carpeting. It provides a better atmosphere and saves on maintenance costs.

Project 75-46 is for a Commissary Storage Building. There is no way to insulate the present building and it does not have enough space. They have been unable to conduct a proper inventory as the food is stored in various places. They have a large freezer for meats that was donated and also a cooler box. They would like for all the food to be placed in one location.

Page 3

Jay Gardner then presented his budget for the Southern Nevada Childrens Home. He stated there are no new positions requested, the budget is based only on the cost increase. He stated the Supplemental appropriation is requested to provide enough money for food and medical care due to the increased costs. He stated they have the same number of children as the Northern Nevada Childrens Home and the budget is very comparable.

Dale Frost explained the Budget for Rehabilitation-Department of Administration. He stated that they have reorganized in accordance with SB 590. Mr. Frost stated that they have now brought together the three divisions. He stated that they have created on centralized administration for Rehabilitation Services to the Blind, Bureau of Alcohol and the Bureau of Disability Adjudicated. They have a maximum use of Federal funds and a minimum use of State funds. They have taken the existing positions and transferred them into the new division and used the employees on a pool basis. Mr. Frost stated that their request is a planned program budgeting approach and the Governor's recommendation is a hold-the-line budget.

Maynard Yasmer explained that they are requesting two new positions, an Account Clerk and a Senior Account Clerk to help with the increase in the workload. He explained the In-State travel expense and the Out-of-State travel expense and stated he would supply the committee with a breakdown of each.

Roy Dowling explained the Vocational Rehabilitation for disabled individuals for the purpose of obtaining employment. The Social Services program will allow a concerted effort be made to the welfare recipients. The original budget was based on serving 20% of the disabled population. They presently have two temporary positions which they would like to be permanent in order to handle the workload. The Chauffer exists at the Reno facility which provides transportation services to pick up clients, take them to the facility and return them to their homes. The Contractural Services are mainly in the medical field for medical consultants. Mr. Yasmer stated he had a list of contracts that would be supplied to the committee. Mr. Frost stated there was a decrease in the Contractural Services because they now have their own physician who provides more service at less cost.

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Merv Flander explained the budget for the Services to the Blind. The Services to the Blind exist for the purpose of promoting social and economic independence to the blind and the visually impaired. They operate business enterprise programs. Their goal is to serve 14% in 1976 and 15% in 1977 of the blind and visionally impaired. They need a counseling staff to service this amount of people. They are requesting two additional Journeyman Counselors and two aids. Mr. Flander stated that they have negotiated a contract with the Welfare Division for Social Services program but it was late in getting in the budget. The Vocational Rehabilitation staff is required to spend full time in vocational programs

There is a One Shot appropriation, AB 264, to embark on an effort to seek ways and means to expand the employment program. They are trying to make this program self-sustaining but they have not found the mechanism to do so yet. They are attempting to build 2 to 6 additional stands. They are trying to construct stands in the Reno Post Office, the Highway Department in Reno and Cottonwood Cove near Las Vegas and they have been asked by the phone company in Las Vegas to construct a stand there. Mr. Robinson stated that \$35,000 was appropriated to equip sub-normal vision aids for the partially blind but it is not being used. Mr. Flander explained that the facility was constructed and they hope to contract 1 or 2 Optometrists to serve this facility in an attempt to implement it.

Chairman Mello then read AB 275 "Creates a commission to study electric utility companies, gas utility companies and the Public Service Commission of Nevada." BDR S-908

Mr. Robinson stated that this is an effort to do something about the problem while the Legislation is still in session. Mr. Dreyer stated that this would be a statewide study.

Mr. Dreyer recommended a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion passed. Mr. Dreyer was assigned the bill.

Chairman Mello read AB 264 "Makes appropriations to the Bureau of Services to the Blind, Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Human Resources for purposes of constructing and equipping vending stands to be operated for blind persons." BDR S-875. ¹⁷¹

Mr. Robinson recommended a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mr. Howard. Motion passed. This was assigned to Mr. Robinson.

Chairman Mello read AB 254 "Makes supplemental appropriations to Northern Nevada Childrens Home Division of Youth Services Agency of Department of Human Resources for purposes of meeting increased costs of food and medicine." BDR S-843.

Mr. Glover recommended a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mr. Weise. Motion passed. This was assigned to Mr. Glover.

Chairman Mello read AB 244 "Makes General Fund supplemental appropriation to Southern Nevada Childrens Home Division of Youth Services Agency of Department of Human Resources." BDR S-844.

Mr. Bremner made a motion to recommend a "Do-Pass". Seconded by Mrs. Brookman. Motion passed. This was assigned to Mr. Bremner

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.