

Assembly

MINUTES

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

February 24, 1975

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, Roger Trounday, Charles E. Dickson, Ph.D.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 18, 19, 20 and 21, 1975 was made by Mr. Dreyer. Seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion passed.

Dr. Dickson explained the budget for the Division of Mental Hygiene - Mental Retardation. He stated that they provide care, treatment and training of people who have emotional problems or are mentally retarded. Their services consist of many small service units throughout the state. He stated their philosophy of operation is to enhance personal dignity, protect rights and respect rights and treat the people in the least restrictive care possible. Their goal is to reduce incidents of mental health and mental retardation problems in Nevada. In order to do this they have many strengths and weaknesses. Their strength is that they have a good program in Las Vegas and the weakness is that they do not have a program in Northeast Las Vegas that is strong. They also do not have enough programs for children in Northern Nevada or enough programs throughout the state for Mental Retardation. They also do not have enough staff to offer good quality control and assessment.

In the Central Staff Budget (page 299) they are requesting a new position of Psychologist V who would do program evaluations and applied research and write grants in applied research. This position would be state funded the first year of the biennium and federally funded the second year. Dr. Dickson supplied a handout which broke down the In-State travel and Out of State travel which would be used mainly for meetings.

The Contractual Services was explained to be used to write proposals to Fleischmann in order to get grant funds.

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He explained the People Magazine portion of the budget. Articles written for this magazine supply the people with information which prevent unnecessary visitation to services. He stated it was an important educative technique and reaches many people. This magazine is free to the people but they accept donations. Mr. Dreyer questioned the production cost and felt that it could be printed at a lesser rate. Dr. Dickson explained WICHE and stated that the \$7500 was for dues, conferences training centers and workshops.

The Medical Residency program is an attempt to set up a residency program. Nevada has difficulty hiring and training psychiatrists and a lot of time and money is spent in recruiting. This cost would allow for 2 - 3 psychiatrists. Unless they can get Stanford University to pick up the costs of these psychiatrists by having them serve their residency in Nevada's rural areas, this program would become a part of the budget in the coming years.

Nevada Mental Health Institute (page 303) was explained. Chairman Mello stated that there is a supplemental requested on Page A-28 of \$103,939. This is AB 252. Dr. Dickson explained that this supplemental request is due to the increase costs and inflation. They do not have enough money to complete the services provided. Bill Bible explained that an inspection showed that several mattresses and overstuffed furniture would have to be replaced at an additional cost of \$23,375 to be added to AB 252.

The Capital Improvement Programs were explained. Project 75-20 (page 653) would provide for site development. They are in need of landscaping, playgrounds and activity centers. They hope to build an environment decent enough for 300 people to live in. Project 75-21 (page 653) is for improvements to six buildings. Project 75-22 (page 653) would provide for a day activities facility. Project 75-34 (page 656) would provide for an Inpatient and Residential Facility. And Project 75-35 (page 656) would be to renovate Building two and provide transitional living unit.

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The total cost of these Capital Improvement Projects is \$4,159,000. Chairman Mello stated that he wanted the sub-committee to look into these projects.

Dr. Dickson stated that the three new positions requested are: Institution Director Physician, Geneticist, and Pastorial Director. The Handout breaks down what the new positions would be doing.

The Contractural Services are used for medical kinds of activity not provided by the staff. The Other Contract Services are for equipment maintenance.

Dr. Dickson stated that they spend .61 per meal per person.

The Office Furniture and Equipment would provide replacement of old furniture and kitchen appliances which are itemized in the handout.

Chairman Mello stated that with a good out-patient facility, more people would ask for help.

Dr. Dickson explained the Facility for the Mental Offender (page 309). New Positions being requested are Active Administrator, half-time Psychiatrist position which would then provide a full-time psychiatrist, Psychologist V, Psychiatrist nurse for medications, Recreation therapist, Mental Health Technician, Senior Clerk Typist and two Housekeeping aides.

The facility is designed for 32 people, but with this staff, they could only house 22 people at one time. Bill Bible stated that they are in disagreement as to how many staff members are needed to operate the facility. They felt that 32 staff members could handle 32 people and stated that they had no operational experience to base the amount on.

The Contractural Services provides for special psychiatric consultation.

The Medical and Dental expense is primarily for drugs. The breakdown is listed in the handout. This would also provide for consultations. He stated that the Usual and Customary fees are paid to doctors.

Chairman Mello stated that the operating expense amount shown may not be spent entirely, depending on when the facility is opened.

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Dr. Dickson explained the Reno Mental Health Center (page 313). This facility is responsible for adult, adolescent and child services. No new positions are being requested. Federal Grant 314-D is in trouble and although they have always had this grant, it might not be available.

The Out of State travel, In-State travel and Contractural Services are broken down in the handout. The biggest item is for rent for the two locations and the Medical and Dental expense is primarily for drugs. For those who cannot obtain drugs in any other way, they are provided by the facility. Their present caseload is 650 people.

The Rural Clinics (page 315) budget was explained. They have six small clinics in rural areas. There is a need to service the people in the rural areas and Dr. Dickson stated that it is an expensive and difficult task.

The New Positions being requested are Psychologist III and three senior clerk typists which would allow full-time coverage. The Out of State travel and the In-State travel are broken down in the Handout, but Dr. Dickson stated that the In-State travel is a big operating expense because of the difficulty they have in keeping people working in the rural areas.

The Communication expense is also a large item in this budget due to the many phone consultations.

The Las Vegas Mental Health Center (page 318) was then explained. Chairman Mello stated that there is a Capital Improvement Project on page 659. This would provide a Kitchen facility to service and prepare food for the three facilities in Las Vegas.

They have received a Federal Grant which would provide 75% funding in the first and second years, 60% in the third year, 45% in the fourth year and

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30% in the following years.

They are requesting no new positions as they will be supplied by federal funds, they are requesting operating expenses to support these positions.

The Contractural Services are for physical exams, outside physician calls, medical calls, etc. The Other Building Rent is for the Westside Center. The Taxes and Assessments are for improvements of West Charleston Street.

Specialized Equipment provide occupational and recreational therapy. The equipment used is to get people back to a normal environment.

The Henderson Mental Health Center (page 322) is requesting three new positions. Psychiatric Social Worker, Senior Psychiatrist and Senior Clerk Typist. Dr. Dickson stated that the salaries shown for Psychiatrists throughout the budget are a little below what they should be due to a printing error.

Bill Bible explained the drop in Contractural Services is due to the realignment of the psychiatric position.

The Special Reports provides for the preparation and presentation and staffing of a grant for the Northeast Las Vegas area in case money becomes available.

The Clark County Emotionally Disturbed Children's Program (page 324) was explained by Dr. Dickson. Last year, 1600 clients were seen even though the building is not completed. The Social Services work program shows \$171,881 and they are requesting \$75,000. The request is made at the rate they thought they could collect based on federal guidelines. At this time they are collecting at the rate of \$200,000 and if this goes down to \$175,000 they will have to cut down on staff. A contract has been established with Welfare where they see their clients and receive some of their federal funds. They have spent part of the \$200,000 on positions that were approved at the last Legislature, but were not funded.

Mr. Dreyer stated that he received a letter from the Chair person of the Children's Behavioral Services stating that the agency is currently operating under Social Services Contract that would provide \$200,000 in federal funds for the continuation and is asking that consideration be given to allow these services by adding \$125,000 to the \$75,000 shown and says that this requires no additional state funds. Dr. Dickson stated that that was correct based on recent collections, getting guidelines lined up federally and getting contracts established with Welfare. Mr. Bible stated that he did not understand the recent rate of collections and did not know if they have just taken one month's rate. He stated that the possibility should be considered of adding additional Social Services money but the President's proposal is to slide the matching scale down.

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The New Positions requested are Senior Psychiatrist Range C. The Budget shows Senior Physician Range C which is an error and which also raises the salary. Also, a Custodian Worker, two Child Development Specialists, Professional Parents II who would live in the cottage with four children and provide services continually, and Professional Parents I.

The Out of State travel and InState travel are explained in the handout. The Old Building Rent will be used in case the new building is not completed by July 1. The Office Furniture and Equipment is for the new positions, video-monitoring equipment, dictaphones, office furniture and janitorial equipment.

The Children's Behavioral Services - Washoe County (page 328) was explained. There is a Capital Improvement Project 75-19 (page 653) which would provide for a three building complex identical to those under construction in Las Vegas. This facility will be located near the University in order to use students for teachers. Chairman Mello stated that once this program gets going it will cost the state \$775,000 to operate it. They would have a start up group consisting of a Senior Clerk Typist, Academic teacher, Psychologist V and Child Development Specialist.

Dr. O'Bryan then explained the property exchange for this Facility. She handed out maps showing the location of Stempeck Park and the proposed location site for the Children's Behavioral Services - Washoe County.

She stated that Stempeck Park is 8 acres and the re-location site, which was appraised at \$25,000 per acre, is 15-20 acres.

Chairman Mello stated that he was very disappointed in the park itself. He stated that the Counsel and the Mayor, when signing this lease, were very shortsighted in signing a 99 year lease with a six months cancellation and then obligating \$70,000 or more of the taxpayer's money. If this deal hadn't come along now, they would have a bond issue of \$70,000 they could pump into this which could have been an exchange for some other property six months from now. He stated they could have put \$140,000 into a park with a six months cancellation and felt this would not have been representing the people. He could not understand why a park would be put in an area with such poor surroundings. Most parks can be designated as an adult areas but parks should be developed for use by all and not just one group of people. He felt the proposal is a good proposal, but sad that they don't want to use this property which is farm land and requires no fill and the property in question is in need of lots of fill. He stated that the reason why they do not want to utilize this property appears to be because it is located near an institution and perhaps the people in the institution would be using the park.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.