

Assembly

MINUTES

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

February 25, 1975

Meeting 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: Bill Bible, John Dolan, Dr. Charles Dickson, Roger Trounday, Jack Middleton, Janice Ayers, Fred Tenney, Sally Landis, and Manuel Wedge.

Dr. Dickson explained the Psychiatrist's salaries shown on pages 303 (Nevada Mental Health Institute) and 318 (Las Vegas Mental Health Center). He stated that the Medical Director's salary shown on page 303 is a position that requires Psychiatric training and is responsible for all medical and psychiatric program of the Institute. This is an Unclassified position and the salary is set by statute which turned out to be less than a Senior Psychiatrist's salary. The Medical Director is an Unclassified position and the Psychiatrists are Classified positions.

On Page 318, the Medical Director's salary is requested at \$35,000 and the existing salary is shown at \$28,800. A Senior Psychiatrist is paid \$36,600 and this position requires psychiatric training and is in charge of all other psychiatrists. They are unable to fill this position at that rate of salary.

Dr. Dickson then explained the Mental Retardation budget (page 331). They provide the administration services for all clinics and training services for the Mental Retardation aspect which includes the Northern Mental Retardation Center and the Southern Mental Retardation Center.

The New Positions being requested are two account clerks, one for the North and one for the South and one Psychiatric Social Worker.

The Out of State travel is used primarily for conferences and is broken down in the Handout. The In-State travel would provide for three or four persons housed in Reno to travel to Las Vegas.

Jack Middleton explained the increase in Operating Supplies. He explained that this was mostly rental money. He also stated that Utilities have increased since the budget was made up and feels this amount might not be enough.

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The Medical and Dental increase is due to the fact that they are seeing more people in these services.

Food preparation is done in the cottages with an approximate cost of .55 per meal.

Contractual Services is for medical, pediatric services, optometrists, medical diagnostic treatment and training. The Other Contract Services is for pharmacy supplies, physical therapy and speech therapy and equipment repair.

Jack Middleton explained the Vocational Training Grant. This money is received from the Vocational Education Department. In the past years they have received \$30,000 which has scaled down to \$5,000 which is used for travel, staff in Las Vegas and Vocational Education for the Handi-Capped.

Dr. Dickson explained the Desert Development Center (page 335). There is a Capital Improvement Project on page 652, #75-27 in the amount of \$2,772,000. This is an attempt to provide normalized living situations for the Mentally Retarded people in Southern Nevada. There are fifty people in the Institution in the North who will be moved to Las Vegas where they live. The Out-Patient part of the facility would treat 200 persons. The operating cost would be about \$700,000 per year and the positions would be filled immediately to handle the Out-Patients. The building is not expected to be completed until August 1977 and they will rent space to work out of until the building is completed.

Page 2

Janice Ayers, State Director for the Nevada Association for Mentally Retarded Citizens, stated that their total state organization supports the concept of the Desert Development Center but does not support the staff. She also stated that she was speaking for the Parents Planning Council which consists of 51 parents who have children in the Sparks facility. The parents do not have the time nor the money to visit their children and totally support the concept of this new facility.

Dr. Dickson explained the Community Training Center Fund (page 337). This serves at least 275 persons throughout the state who are not eligible for other services in the public school system. They do not have the capability of offering full-time consultation services due to the lack of staff. They only have a half-time position existing in this budget and have approximately \$7,000 for program administration which includes travel, some consultation, and checking on the clinics.

Janice Ayers stated that this program has not been funded to the extent which it should be. They have not had an increase for six years and costs have gone up. Monies received go to hiring trainers for the Mentally Retarded, but she stated they cannot operate or hire good quality trainers without an increase of funds.

Jack Middleton stated that the increase shown in the budget is primarily in growth. The number of staff and the people served have taken up any increase. Dr. Dickson stated that \$75,000 of Social Services Money were not collected because the regulations did not fit the target group. They now have new regulations which would allow this to be collected.

Fred Tenney, Executive Director of Opportunity Village for Retarded Citizens in Las Vegas, stated that they have not received an increase for six years and cannot meet inflation rates. They will be providing programs for those who will be moving to the Desert Developmental Center. They raise 87% of their own budget through their own sources and they need help in funding the program. They hope to receive \$1000 to \$2000 per year.

Sally Landis, Ormsby Association for Retarded Citizens, stated they are a very small and very rural organization, and their problems are not as great as other areas, but they meet the needs of the adults who have no other program. They help small children and their parents deal with the problems. They receive about \$95,000 in grant money.

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Manuel Wedge, Washoe Association for Mentally Retarded in Reno, stated that they are not asking for total costs for the program but only about 20% of total budget be paid by the State. They have a concept of de-institution. These are the only Community Training Centers in the State and are only partially funded by the State. He stated the Federal funds cannot be applied to administration, but only the staff dealing with clients directly. He stated they receive \$60,000 from Community Training Center to pay for staff salaries.

The Foster Grandparents Program was explained by Dr. Dickson (page 339). They employ people of 60 years of age or over for 20 hours a week to work with children. This is federally funded and they are asking for supplemental funds to free up more money to employ more Grandparents.

Jack Middleton stated that this program is serving both children and senior citizens. They still have 14 of the original Grandparents working with them. The budget amount for the requested Foster Grandparents must be doubled as they are hired in couples. They receive \$1.50 per hour, 20 hours a week, one hot meal and \$1.00 per day stipend.

Dr. Dickson explained the Resident Placement (page 341). Have taken collections from parents or guardians who have Mentally Retarded children. These collections are used to place children in private homes. The \$108,000 anticipated from collections would allow 32 people to be placed in homes. They are requesting \$60,000 additional appropriation to place 50 more people in private homes. In 1977 they hope to place 70 individuals in homes.

The Community Relevant Planning budget was explained by Dr. Dickson (page 342). This is a federally funded program. They work with families and parents of Mentally Retarded people. They teach them skills to avoid

placing people in institutions. The budget implies that they will have funds in 1976-77, but the program will terminate at the end of 1975-76 as there is a possibility that this will not be renewed. They are not asking for the state to pick up the cost.

Community Awareness Project (page 343) is a federally funded program. They teach behaviorally retarded children and adults .

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 A.M.