

MINUTES

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

March 20, 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: Ruby Duncan, Fr. Larry Dunphy, Bob Cohen, Arlene Joyce, John Cohan, George Miller, Barbara Brady, Dr. Jack Cherry, Robert Petroni, Garth Winkler, Hugo Quilici, Jim Springer, Richard Donaldson, Gay Henderson, Diane Axley, Barbara Silberling, Pearl Torell, Sister Patricia Krommer,

Ruby Duncan stated that they support the \$9 million grant recommended by the department for the Aid to Dependent Children, rather than the \$4 million recommended by the Governor. This is one category where the woman receives only 40% of her need and feels they should receive 100% of their need. Without this, the child has poor housing, poor education and malnutrition. A family of four presently receives \$201 per month. The basic family budget throughout the United States is \$305 and felt that the state should try to achieve the basic poverty level. Inflation for poor people provides a greater hardship than it does on the middle income people. She stated that the poor women and children of the state should be brought up to the \$305 level. The Clark County Welfare Rights is an advocate of the poor. Presently, state Welfare pays \$42 to a child. But if this child goes hungry and unclothed he is placed in a foster home where the foster parent is paid \$100 per month. She felt that \$152 a week is needed by a family of four in 1974 and \$161 in 1975. Poor infants have a greater chance of being born dead or malformed and stated there should be a way to stop the war on children.

Diane Axley stated that the average size of a welfare family is only three members. Families eventually get off the rolls, but much damage can be done to a child if he has not eaten right in three years. North Las Vegas has only thirty housing units for a mother who receives \$201 per month, but there is a waiting list for a year. They are poorly insulated and the power bill alone is very expensive. Nevada has the highest percentage of working mothers in the nation. If the mother loses her job she goes on unemployment but no longer receives all the benefits. She stated that the purpose of Government is to levy taxes and provide services. If these services are not provided, then the Government should not levy taxes. The total state appropriation in 1973-74 was \$4,716,000 and the Governor is recommending \$4,657,000. The cash grant surplus is \$6,250,000; medicated is \$7,665,000 and additional appropriations total \$9,766,000. She felt that it would be nice for a welfare family to be able to build a surplus into the family budget.

Fr. Larry Dunphy stated that they are requesting and urging this session to take action to include the child who is dependent because of his unemployed father (SB 168) in the State's Welfare program. He stated that this is the only means by which the family can remain intact and still receive some assistance other than general assistance. Presently, if the father is not covered by unemployment insurance or if the unemployment continues beyond the limits of the unemployment insurance, the family must either turn to the County for General Assistance or leave the family. Under General Assistance a family of four could receive \$116 per month which is 30% of the current poverty level income, whereas if the father left the family, they could receive \$135 per month or 42% of the current poverty guidelines. 24% of all employment in the State is not covered by unemployment insurance. The passage of this aspect of the welfare would contribute to the stability and integrity of the family. Also, the passage of this bill would provide coverage for the family under SAMI. Absence of some sort of assistance poses a serious emotional threat to the lives of persons. A member of the family may undergo serious emotional problems which may require some form of treatment at the expense of the state and juvenile problems become more frequent which may lead to the institutionalization of the juvenile in a state institution. The nutritional problems connected with the bare subsistence level could

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have an effect on the health of the member which might make it difficult for him to return to work when it is available. Nutritional deficiencies cause learning difficulties in children. This program would benefit potential recipients and also the counties, state and taxpayers. At present, whatever funds are given to these families through General Assistance or Emergency Assistance are 100% from county taxes. Under this program, 50% would be coming from Federal funds. In entering into this program, the State must meet the Federal regulations in order to receive the matching funds. The families must meet the following criteria: the father must be employed less than 100 hours per month for the two prior months; he must be unemployed for at least 30 days prior to the receipt of such aid; he must have six or more quarters of work in the preceeding four years of unemployment compensation during the preceeding year and must not have earned less than \$50 per quarter; he cannot have refused a bona fide offer of employment without good cause or training; must be registered for work and continue to seek work; he must be certified for participation in WIN within 30 days of receipt of aid and he must not be qualified for unemployment compensation. He felt that this program, which can serve to help stabilize families and keep them together in times of unemployment is so important for the welfare of families in this state.

John Cohan stated that the Medically Needy Program (AB 249) is designed primarily for those whose income does not exceed \$205. Anyone making more than this must pay his own medical needs and may find it difficult to stay in good shape or may postpone doctor's visits. They encourage old people to visit a doctor regularly to check their anatomical plumbing. This bill will provide for the aged to receive the medical care they need.

Bob Cohen stated that they have managed to reduce the total cost of the program to about \$4 million in 1975 and about \$5 million in 1976 and felt it could be run at this level. Many items could be cut without sacrificing the services. This program is servicing 2,666 recipients or about 220 cases per month. He felt that they do not need a Program Coordinator or a Social Work Coordinator and the 67 eligibility certification specialists could be reduced to 33. They also felt that the printing and telephone use could be cut in half. The Senior Citizens have set this as their number one priority. He stated that Marilyn Cohen did some work with the Illinois' program and stated that it took very little time to determine the eligibility of a person. George Miller stated that because they took so little time with the determination they have had funds withdrawn because a good job was not done and they have a great number of ineligibles on the list. Nevada does not because they are staffed to do the job. Marilyn Cohen stated that 147 persons were on the staff for a caseload of 2665. The Governor is recommending for the food stamp program 153 persons to administer the 13,000 projected caseload. She felt that this number of positions was too high. Mr. Cohen stated that the very very poor are entitled to complete medical care under the State Aid to Medical Indigent and they are trying to include senior citizens and those with marginal incomes by accepting the Federal medical needs program which is under the **same structure at 50-50 matching.**

Over

Barbara Brady stated that the Clark County Board of County Commissioners endorses this bill. She stated that the Clark County Social Services has a limited amount of money and every dime is spent for the indigent. The counties are having trouble and they wonder if they are going to have to pick up more of the expenditures.

Bob Petroni, Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, stated that county hospitals are in trouble because of the economy and the number of people needing help who are unable to pay their bills. These people must be given help even though they are unable to pay for the services. By law, they have to take any person who is sick or injured. If they cannot collect the money owed, they cannot pay their bills and their supplies cannot pay theirs. He stated that county hospitals are in need of help.

Dr. Jack Cherry stated that the emergency room continues to grow and 9/10 the people who come to the emergency room are unable to pay their bill. Felt that \$1 1/2 million would be needed to pay the bills so the supplies can come in. They are carrying a large indigent load. Need help in order to have the supplies to help the people. Private hospitals refuse people who cannot pay and refer them to the county hospital. The private hospitals do not want to carry their share of indigent people.

Mr. Petroni stated that 8-10% is charged to bad debts which means the other

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patients have to pay more. This bill would relieve the burden off the county hospitals.

Garth Winkler stated that AB 236 regarding Social Services has been amended, but he did not know what the amendments were. The state is allocated \$6,327,000 but in order to secure these funds it is necessary to come up with \$2,109,000 each year in seed monies. There is approximately \$4 million unclaimed. They are seeking \$750,000 state money in the first year and \$600,000 in the second year to secure. The private sector would put up the rest of the money to secure these funds. County governments, municipalities, housing authorities, school districts, United Ways, charitable foundations, corporations and businesses could all help provide seed dollars. They are not trying to depend entirely on state money. The funding source is very broad in the types of programs that could be offered. 50% of the federal funds must be spent on current recipients and the other 50% are people whose income is under 80% of the state's adjusted seed income. They could operate a \$6 million program with a staff of 5. A 5% fee on contracts written to be used for administrative costs. They are asking for \$750,000 and the passage of this bill which would allow for pass through of federal money to Nevada for social services. If the federal funds disappear the burden will not be placed on the state if contracts and private funds were received.

Charlotte Miller stated that the Board of Directors of United Way recommends passage of this bill as it provides a mechanism for distributing social services. She stated that only 1/3 of the needs are being fulfilled. She stated that the Federal taxes paid by Nevadans should be brought back to Nevada. They are presently being used to operate programs in other states. The United Way does not operate a Welfare program.

Hugo Quilici stated that in January 1975, the Board of the United Way of Northern Nevada supports the full use of all federal and other funds available to the state for human services programs and urges the state of Nevada through its appropriate State divisions and agencies to make federal funds available under Titles IV (A) and VI of the Social Security Act of 1967, as amended, to community social services programs whose source of necessary matching funds is derived in whole or in part from private or non-public sources, and urges the State to adopt a policy permitting qualifying funds allocated to United Way agencies to be used as matching monies necessary to attract **Federal Funds under Titles IV(A) and VI of the Social Security Act or any comparable legislation amending said titles.**

Over

Jim Springer, Executive Director of the YMCA in Reno, stated he represented 25 organizations that support AB 236 (see attached). They estimate 30,000 additional people could be serviced in Northern Nevada through this bill.

Mr. Robinson stated that in his district he saw many senior citizens who are in need of these services and these funds cannot be made available only to senior citizens. He felt that an ample vehicle is in the budget for paying funds. \$750,000 should be added to provide a \$2 million gain which would be directed into areas of social services. He stated that he supported the amendment.

Richard Donaldson, stated that the Clark County Legal Services Disability unit deals with Social Security people who are disabled and cannot work. \$66 is given to each individual which is not much and this is not the only amount they could receive.

Gay Henderson operates a training center for the Mentally Retarded. Their goal is to train people to work in the community and live independently but they need financial assistance. 1500 in the state are qualified for SSI. They need training so they do not have to live in homes which costs more than supplementing them to live in the community.

Pearl Torell, Foster Parents Association, stated that foster parents are faced with the task of giving care on the present subsidy which is \$130 per month for teenagers and could go from \$300 to \$1500 for children. She stated that Christmas and Birthdays are not included in these funds. She felt that the Foster Care Program was one of the most important programs in the Welfare Department.

Sister Patricia Krommer stated that 70 agencies and private groups support

the social services programs and felt that the priority of the state should be investing in people.

George Miller stated that under the Aid to Dependent Children program the mother who is not working still receive the benefits she is entitled to. Arlene Joyce stated that her unemployment benefits would be over the 61% grant and she would not receive the medical. Ruby Duncan stated that the Food Stamps also are taken off her grant.

Diane Axley stated that she is in favor of adequate grants to foster children, but would like the state to pay a mother to take care of her own child the same as they do a foster mother.

Ruby Duncan stated that the alcoholic mother should be helped to keep her children in the home and have more money. She would have more incentive not to drink if she would not have to worry about pinching pennies.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Dear Governor O'Callaghan:

Over the past few months, the Board of Directors of the United Way of Northern Nevada has devoted considerable time and energy to consideration of the 6.3 million dollars in federal funds allocated to Nevada under Titles IV(A) and VI of the Social Security Act of 1967, as amended, to provide social services programs for senior citizens, the blind and disabled, and needy families. The potential programs offered by Titles IV(A) and VI (soon to be amended and combined as Title XX under the same Act) include educational, employment, homemaker, legal, transportation, day care, and health related services, and home-delivered and congregate meals in order to provide generally for the resocialization of individuals and the preservation of their self-sufficiency and dignity.

A review of both the kinds of programs receiving financial support as member agencies of the United Way of Northern Nevada and the constituency served by United Way member agencies reveals that the opportunity exists for shared concern and cooperation. The United Way of Northern Nevada also seeks through voluntary action to provide for the resocialization of individuals and the preservation of their economic independence and dignity.

Federal funds for programs under Titles IV(A) and VI are available to Nevada and the people of the State on a three for one matching funds basis. Provisions for 2.1 million dollars in non-federal funds could be used to attract the 6.3 million dollars in federal funds already earmarked and allocated for Nevada. Under the Act, the required matching funds may be provided from the public sector, the private sector of the community or by public and private sectors acting in concert with each other. In addition, where funds are provided by the public sector of the community, the imputed value of in-kind contributions can be credited against the matching fund requirement.

The Act also permits the State to become a conduit, channelling and directing funds to community human services programs other than those administered by the State and municipalities, whether the matching fund is provided by governmental entities or the private sector of the community. Because human services programs can be developed through the use of private or non-governmental matching funds, Titles IV(A) and VI offer the prospect of expanding human services programs in Nevada without the necessity of additional state taxation. Moreover, because these federal funds can be made available to local community social and human services programs, the potential exists to broaden the realizable impact of the voluntary action concept. Nevadans have always jealously guarded against any interference with local control of their communities and thus, Titles IV(A) and VI offer the opportunity of preserving this heritage by returning to local communities and the private sector a large measure of control over the direction by the community of human services programs.

The State of Nevada has made only limited use of the funds available under Titles IV(A) and VI for social services programs. Last year, only 1.3 million dollars in available federal funds under Titles IV(A) and VI were utilized, thereby raising the prospect that once again, approximately 5 million dollars already appropriated for Nevada will go unclaimed. From the vast experience of the United Way member agencies, it can be concluded that these funds would be returned in the face of an immediate and demonstrated need in Nevada for expanded human services programs.

In addition, the State has been unwilling to become a conduit, directing funds under Titles IV(A) and VI to community programs with private matching funds. Similarly, the State has not yet transferred funds to the local community programs by itself providing the necessary matching funds. As a result, federal funds under Titles IV(A) and VI have remained largely unavailable to community human services programs.

The Board of Directors of the United Way of Northern Nevada is of the opinion that implementation of the full range of programs under Titles IV(A) and VI would greatly improve the quality of life for our senior citizens, the blind and disabled, and needy families of the state. In addition, the Board believes that such action promotes the best interest of all Nevadans. 310

Accordingly, at the Board meeting of the United Way of Northern Nevada held on January 21, 1975, the Board adopted the following position statement:

The United Way of Northern Nevada supports the full use of all federal and other funds available to the state for human services programs, urges the State of Nevada through its appropriate State divisions and agencies to make federal funds available under Titles IV(A) and VI of the Social Security Act of 1967, as amended, to community social services programs whose source of necessary matching funds is derived in whole or in part from private or non-public sources, and urges the State to adopt a policy permitting qualifying funds allocated to United Way agencies to be used as matching monies necessary to attract federal funds under Titles IV(A) and VI of the Social Security Act or any comparable legislation amending said titles.

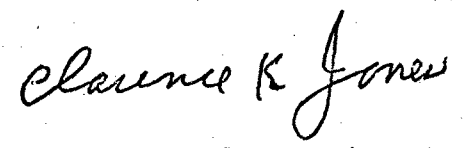
To facilitate the spirit and intent of the Board's position, the Board of Directors of the United Way of Northern Nevada also adopts an affirmative role to encourage member agencies to apply for Titles IV(A) and VI federal funds for human services programs.

The members of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Northern Nevada are aware that the legislative session adds to your already busy and ambitious schedule. As an expression of

the importance with which the United Way of Northern Nevada views the full use of federal and any other funds available to the people of Nevada for human services programs, the Board voted to communicate to you personally as Governor of the State of Nevada the contents of this letter.

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Sincerely,



Clarence K. Jones, President
Board of Directors
United Way of Northern Nevada

1. ~~Alcoholic Rehabilitation Association~~
2. American Red Cross
3. Boy Scouts of America
4. Camp Fire Girls
5. Crisis Call Center
6. Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children & Adults
7. Economic Opportunity Board of Washoe County **
8. Elderport **
9. Girl Scouts of America
10. March of Dimes
11. Nevada Catholic Welfare
12. People, Inc.
13. Planned Parenthood of Washoe County **
14. Reno Jaycees
15. R.S.V.P. of Washoe County **
16. R.S.V.P. of Carson City
17. Salvation Army **
18. Sparks Jaycees
19. United Way of Northern Nevada **
20. Washoe Association for Retarded Children **
21. Washoe County Legal Aid Society
22. Y.M.C.A. of Reno **
23. Y .W.C.A. of Reno/Sparks
24. Y.W.C.A. - University of Nevada **
25. Youth Services System of Washoe County **

** Resolution adopted by Board