

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 19, 1975

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Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman  
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman  
Senator B. Mahlon Brown  
Senator Clifton Young  
Senator William J. Raggio  
Senator Warren L. Monroe  
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: John Aberasturi, Nevada Children's Home  
Jay Gardner, Nevada Children's Home  
Ed Burgess, Nevada Youth Training Center  
Orville Wahrenbrock, Chief Assistant,  
Department of Human Resources  
Howard Barrett, Budget Director  
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst  
Cy Ryan, UPI

Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock began by distributing an organizational chart to the Committee, for reference.

NORTHERN NEVADA CHILDREN'S HOME

Mr. Wahrenbrock talked about the supplemental appropriation (AB 254). Mr. Wahrenbrock also talked about two Capital Improvement items, recommended by the State Planning Board:

- a) \$36,000 -- Carpeting
- b) \$141,000 -- Warehouse, and Commissary Building

Mr. John Aberasturi, Superintendent, said that there are seven cottages, with ten children to a cottage. Mr. Aberasturi said that they have forty boys and thirty girls.

Mr. Aberasturi said that the supplemental appropriation is important for medical and food costs (\$22,000). Mr. Aberasturi said that the last biennium budget was consumed by cost of utilities, food, and operating supplies.

Senator Raggio asked where the children come from. Mr. Aberasturi said that they come from all areas of the State, but the majority of them come from Washoe County. Mr. Aberasturi said that most of the children admitted have a long history of anti-social behavior, (Average age is fifteen years old).

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NORTHERN NEVADA CHILDREN'S HOME (Cont.)

Mr. Aberasturi said that today there are better services within the Institution such as the clinical psychologist that visits the Institution twice a week, and the weekly training session for the staff. Senator Brown asked about the trend towards caring for the older and more difficult child. Mr. Wahrenbrock said the Welfare Department is taking the younger children and placing them in foster homes, and that most of the Children's home referrals are coming from probation departments.

Senator Young asked how admittance priority is determined. Mr. Aberasturi said that there is a waiting list, but the children are placed with various homes in accord with geographical location.

Senator Gibson asked about the bus. Mr. Aberasturi said that this was not a District School bus, but was purchased second-hand and is now worn out.

Senator Lamb asked if it was possible for the Home to consider eliminating some of the "supplemental" requests. Mr. Aberasturi said that if this was necessary, the carpeting was less important than the commissary.

Senator Brown asked when the Home received the bid on the carpeting. Mr. Wahrenbrock said it was last July.

Senator Raggio asked about the "Children's Stipend and Travel" increase. Mr. Aberasturi said that this was for an allowance program. Mr. Aberasturi said that the children in this Home have delinquent tendencies, but are not offenders, and should have the work incentive that allowances give.

SOUTHERN NEVADA CHILDREN'S HOME

Mr. Jay Gardner said that the increases are due to inflation except for the "Staff Training Program".

Senator Brown asked about the age and type of child admitted to the Home. Mr. Gardner said that the children are younger than those in the Northern Home, and usually in the abused and neglected category.

Senator Lamb asked if there is an effort to try and involve the parents as well. Mr. Gardner said that at the time of commitment, the parents are required to make an effort to improve their own parental abilities.

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SOUTHERN NEVADA CHILDREN'S HOME (Cont.)

Senator Lamb asked about the average length of stay. Mr. Gardner said that the Home is considered a place for long-term placement, but at this time, the Home is relatively new.

Senator Young asked if there is any use made of parent resources. Mr. Gardner said that the court has the authority to collect money, and the county charge is \$50.00. Mr. Gardner said that last year the Home received \$19,750 from Clark County.

Senator Raggio asked if the Home could choose who could be admitted. Mr. Gardner said that the court consults the Home, a review is made, and the Home submits its opinion to the court. Senator Lamb said that it sounded like the Home would accept a child if the court assigned the child to the Home. Mr. Gardner said that unfortunately a child usually gets attention if there is a problem in delinquency, but whatever the situation, if the court committed the child, the Home would accept the decision.

SPRING MOUNTAIN YOUTH CAMP

Mr. Wahrenbrock said that last biennium, the Camp collected \$200.00 per boy, per month, and this biennium, they are recommending \$250.00. The second increase Mr. Wahrenbrock discussed was the \$100,000 requested in an upcoming bill for a "one-shot" capital improvement fund for a Half-way House in Clark County.

Senator Gibson asked if community rehabilitation was the new trend. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that the field of juvenile delinquency has "busted open" and it is now felt that such facilities should be community based. Mr. Wahrenbrock continued by saying that the transition back to society is the most difficult area, and foster homes for the older children are almost impossible.

Senator Gibson wanted to know if some coordination in programs is possible. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that the Department has no authority over Good Shepherd, and Spring Mountain, they just send the money.

Senator Young said the average stay is usually six to seven months at most facilities, but he questioned if it was longer at the Children's Home. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that it was longer at the Home, but at the Caliente facility, if the stay is longer than nine months, the Department wants to know why.

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NEVADA YOUTH TRAINING CENTER

Mr. Wahrenbrock said that there is a supplemental request in SB 181 in the amount of \$159,000 for the balance of this current year, and there are four capital improvement programs for the center, (See pages 649, & 656-7, "The Executive Budget".).

Senator Lamb asked about the increase in food costs. Mr. Ed Burgess said that the children are more active and food costs have increased. Senator Lamb was concerned that the food may be going "out the back door". Mr. Burgess said that there isn't a record keeper, but hopefully this isn't happening.

Senator Lamb said that the personnel looked high. Mr. Burgess said that the population has greatly increased too, and although the Center was built for 120 boys with a growth of twenty, there are now 155 boys in residence, and staffing is needed for 160. Mr. Burgess gave the following statistics on costs:

- a) 1973-74 (Fiscal) -- The costs were \$3,871 per boy (average)
- b) 1973-74 (Fiscal) \_\_\_ \$9,995 per occupied bed
- c) 1973 -- Success rate of 82%

Mr. Burgess said that the Center sets goals of achievement, and most residents work up from a retardation of four grades. The minimum achievement said Mr. Burgess is two months for every one month of work. The children must reach their goals before recommended for parole.

Mr. Burgess said that the type of child they are receiving is more physically aggressive, and an increase in personnel would help ensure stability in security.

Mr. Burgess said that the new positions are a senior clerk typist, a building custodian, and four group supervisors so that at least one cottage can be staffed twenty-four hours per day.

Senator Lamb asked about the runaways. Mr. Burgess said that there is about one per month.

Senator Lamb asked about the "in-state" travel. Mr. Burgess said that this is for meetings in Carson and Las Vegas to keep in touch with parole operations.

Senator Gibson asked why the Senior Storekeeper was not recommended. Mr. Howard Barrett said that the Budget Office was not concerned about food costs, and felt that this was due to inflation only.

Senator Raggio asked if the eleven staff members are fed too. Mr. Burgess said that they eat when on duty.

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NEVADA YOUTH TRAINING CENTER (Cont.)

Senator Brown asked if the programs funded by the Crime Commission (\$96,000) would be eliminated or expected to be picked up by the State if Federal funds were cut-off. Mr. Burgess said that if there was no funding available, then the programs would have to be gradually eliminated.

Senator Raggio asked about the "Instructional Supplies". Mr. Burgess said that these were textbooks, and workbooks.

Senator Raggio asked about the "Fed. Vocational Education". Mr. Burgess said that this was a fictitious title that allowed the Center to match grants.

Senator Raggio asked if there was an increase in delinquents in Washoe County. Mr. Burgess said that there are more increases in Clark County, because there are more people.

Senator Lamb asked if the Center had better success in rehabilitating the Washoe County residents than those from Clark County. Mr. Burgess said that this was true because the children from Washoe County stayed for a longer term.

Senator Lamb asked about the "Communications expense". Mr. Burgess said that this was for the telephones in the cottages and offices.

Senator Lamb asked about the "Contractual Services". Mr. Burgess said that this is for the visiting physician, and the \$7,500 for "Medical expenses" is for hospital costs.

Senator Lamb asked about the "Inmate stipend and travel". Mr. Burgess said that this is for movement of the children, and that most of the cost involves sending them home.

Senator Gibson asked about the "Special Reports". Mr. Burgess said that this is used to provide .25¢/hour for the boys to work in the kitchen.

YOUTH PAROLE - BOY'S SCHOOL

Mr. Burgess said that this involves four state funded positions, and a youth employment counselor. Mr. Burgess said that the foster home coordinator is funded by LEAA.

Mr. Burgess said that more funding is needed for travel as the agency now only has \$200.00 per month, per car, for twelve employees.

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YOUTH TRAINING CENTER - ESEA TITLE I

Mr. Burgess said that this is a continuation of an existing program. Mr. Burgess said that \$62,189 is used for a program for low achievers.

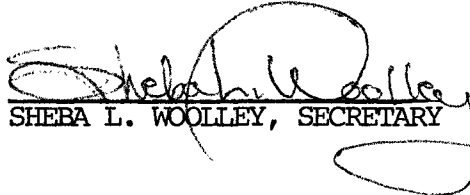
Senator Lamb asked if this was for special tutoring. Mr. Burgess said that this is a special one-to-one instructional program.

Senator Gibson asked how the pay scale is determined for teachers. Mr. Burgess said that the teachers are classified State employees.

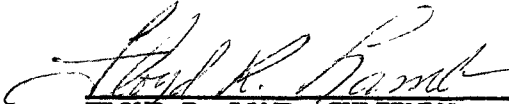
Senator Lamb asked how the length of stay is determined. Mr. Burgess said that this depends on the offense and type of individual involved, as well as, the individual's progress in reaching their own goals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

  
SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:

  
FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN