

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 1975

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

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

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

OTHERS: Bob Gagnier, SB 156
Lillian Bergevin, SB 156
Dr. Charles Dickson, Nevada Mental Health Institute
Thomas A. Piepmeyer, Nevada Mental Health Institute
Roger Glover, Rural Clinics
Dr. Victor J. LoCicero, Nevada Mental Health Institute
Roger Trounday, Department of Human Resources.

SB 156

Mr. Bob Gagnier said that other states have an evaluation of State group insurance plans on a continuing basis.

Senator Monroe asked if Mr. Gagnier had any objections to Mr. Rottman doing the evaluation. Mr. Gagnier said, Mr. Rottman's office doesn't have the time.

Senator Lamb asked Lillian Bergevin if she thought Mr. Rottman had the expertise to be a consultant. Mrs. Bergevin said that the employee committee has no control over the State Insurance office, and that the committee has requested assistance in the past, and has not received it.

Senator Gibson asked how the price of \$10,000 was decided upon. Mr. Howard Barrett said the price range was from \$3,500 to \$10,000.

DIVISION OF MENTAL HYGIENE - MENTAL RETARDATION

Senator Brown asked if WICHE offered more than one program. Dr. Charles Dickson answered that typically, our employees are sent to out-of-state conferences.

Senator Lamb reminded the agency witnesses that the Senate Finance Committee is not a "referee" between the agency and the Governor; and the agency's presentation should be to justify the Governor's recommendation.

Senator Young asked about the Computer Terminal. Dr. Dickson said the computer is used for therapeutic interventions.

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DIVISION OF MENTAL HYGIENE - MENTAL RETARDATION (Cont.)

Senator Raggio asked about Contractual Services, and commented that the Rand Corporation has a study on Mental Health funded by the Fleischmann Foundation. Dr. Dickson said that the Nevada Division uses the Fleischmann grants for proposals which are in part based on the Rand study; and \$1,500 is for a four rural county survey of mental health service awareness.

Senator Young asked about the Institute Study, (\$25,251). Dr. Dickson said this study made proposals for Capital Improvement.

Senator Brown asked Dr. Dickson to identify Dues and Registration costs. Dr. Dickson said that \$500.00 is for professional conferences; and \$1,100 to organizations that provide current study and research information to the Institute.

Senator Raggio asked if the State pays professional dues for attorneys. Mr. Barrett said not for attorneys, although the State does pay some dues so the organization can belong.

Senator Brown expressed concern that State employees would attend outside conferences and then return advocating policies that are contrary to local legislation. Mr. Barrett responded that he didn't have an exact breakdown of the money involved in outside conferences; but almost all State agencies belong to national organizations, i.e., Council of State Governments.

Senator Young commented that Dr. Dickson's salary as recommended by the Governor will increase to \$36,720. Mr. Barrett said this is a 20% increase. Dr. Dickson said that both himself and the Administrator are P.H.D.'s.

NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Senator Lamb began by saying that this budget has increased \$1 million.

Dr. Dickson said that increases are in the operating expenses. Dr. Dickson explained that the Medical Director's position may not be filled because the salary is less than the salary of a psychiatrist, and yet, the Director is required to be a psychiatrist.

Senator Lamb asked about the duties of the Institute Director. Dr. Dickson said that this is an administrative position over such areas as budget and personnel. Mr. Barrett said the Budget Office tried to recruit at \$20,000 and couldn't, so then the salary went to \$24,000, with no results, so reluctantly the salary for the Institute Director now stands at \$28,897. Dr. Victor LoCicero (acting Medical Director), and Mr. Thomas Piepmeyer (acting Institute Director) both testified that the dual directorship is successful; and that one heads clinical matters, and the other heads budget concerns, respectively. Senator Raggio asked where the Institute Director would

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NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE (Cont.)

go if he wished to appeal a decision. Mr. Roger Trounday said to Dr. Dickson, and ultimately to me. Dr. Dickson said that there are continuous negotiations, but no real problems.

Senator Walker asked if the Geneticist would work with retards. Dr. Dickson said yes, and many other areas.

Dr. Dickson said that the Institute has had three or four chaplains on contract, and would like to have a Pastorial Director on a full-time basis.

Senator Lamb asked about the Contractual Services. Dr. Dickson gave the following breakdown:

a) Reno Radiologists	--	\$ 7,150
b) Orthopedic Consultations	---	3,600
c) EKG Interpretations	---	3,350
d) Physicals (Special Cases)	---	2,400
e) Chaplain	---	12,383
f) Relief Library	---	500
g) Relief Pharmaceutical Technician	---	800
h) Staff Education Consultant	---	6,000
i) Medical Records Consultant	---	600
j) Asset Appraisers for Medicare	---	1,800
k) Relief Dental Tech.	---	480
l) Relief Lab & x-ray Technician	---	360
m) Dietician	---	6,200
n) Podiatrist	---	6,600
o) Western Clinical Laboratory	---	9,600

Dr. Dickson said that the Peonage Program allows clients to work in the Institute for therapy. Senator Raggio asked if any of this money is recovered. Dr. Dickson said we charge them for room and board, but leave them a partial income.

Dr. Dickson said the Institute will provide the meals for the new Facility for the Mental Offender, (target completion date is set for November).

Senator Lamb asked about the Replacement Vehicles. Dr. Dickson named the following replacements:

a) Van for Plumber	---	\$ 3,500
b) Vehicle for Electrician	---	3,500

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NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE (Cont.)

c) Snowplow	--	\$ 4,000
d) Van	--	3,500
e) 4-Door sedan	--	200

Senator Gibson asked about the need for the 1953 GMC school bus. Mr. Peipmeyer said this is for outside recreation activities.

Senator Raggio asked about Medical and Dental expenses. Mr. Peipmeyer answered the primary costs are as follows:

a) Pharmaceutical	--	\$108,000
b) Acute Care Facilities	--	50,000

Senator Raggio asked why there are so many operating increases if the caseload is decreasing. Dr. Dickson said that there is a lower residency, but the workload is constant with day-care and out-patient facilities.

Senator Gibson asked for the caseload figures of in-patients and day-care clients for the last five years. Dr. Dickson said that he would provide such for the Senator.

Senator Gibson asked about the average length of stay. Dr. Dickson said it varies from twenty days to many years, but the Institute is moving from a "warehouse" situation to a treatment facility.

Senator Young asked about the client cost per year. Mr. Piepmeyer answered the per diem is \$42.31 per day (neuro-psychiatric); \$33.81 per day (MR); and the remainder is for out-patient and day-care fees.

Senator Raggio asked about the hospital accreditation. Dr. Dickson said this is determined by the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation, who base their evaluation on the patient-staff ratio.

Senator Young asked if the Institute receives private contributions. Dr. Dickson said the funds constitute about 8%. Mr. Barrett said that federal funding comes from Title 19.

FACILITY FOR THE MENTAL OFFENDER

Senator Raggio asked where the listed Existing Positions are now employed. Mr. Barrett responded that these were approved by the last Legislature and haven't been filled yet.

Senator Walker asked about Security Officers. Dr. Dickson said the facility wants to train mental health officers for this, rather than the reverse.

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FACILITY FOR THE MENTAL OFFENDER (Cont.)

Senator Gibson asked how long would individuals stay. Dr. Dickson said that we will keep them until they can aid in their own trial.

Senator Raggio asked about the theory of budgeting for the entire year. Mr. Barrett said that the budget will be adjusted; and originally it was to be open all year.

RENO MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Dr. Dickson said this is exclusively and out-patient service.

Senator Young asked about the Children's Behavioral Service. Dr. Dickson said this service will be for children 13 years and younger, and the Reno center is for adults.

RURAL CLINICS

Dr. Dickson said these clinics are located in Ely, Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, Carson City, and Hawthorne.

Senator Raggio said he can't understand the effectiveness of a traveling psychiatrist. Dr. Dickson agreed that more staff is needed and that resources are being stretched.

Senator Brown noted that there are more clients in Hawthorne. Mr. Roger Glover said this is primarily due to an extra staff member.

Senator Walker asked if this client count included information seekers. Dr. Dickson said no, a contract for service must be established.

LAS VEGAS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Senator Raggio asked why there wasn't a staffing grant for the Reno center. Dr. Dickson answered that one is needed, and a proposal for such will have to be prepared.

HENDERSON MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Dr. Dickson said that they would like to locate the three new positions in Northeast Las Vegas.

CLARK COUNTY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Senator Gibson asked about the Pro Parents. Dr. Dickson said these parents are professionals with degrees in psychology who will live in the duplexes with four severely disturbed children.

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CLARK COUNTY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (Cont.)


Dr. Dickson pointed out that the Senior Physician RG C, should be a Senior Psychiatrist, and the salary will be necessarily be higher. Mr. Barrett said the Budget Office thought the request was for a Pediatrician. Dr. Dickson said, a Pediatrician still won't come for \$28,897.

✓ CBS WASHOE COUNTY

Dr. Dickson said that he hopes for completion on this project in one year, and hopefully property near the Sparks Institute can be traded for land near the University.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


SHEBA L. WOOLLEY, SECRETARY

APPROVED:


FLOYD R. LAMB, CHAIRMAN