

EDUCATION, HEALTH, WELFARE & STATE
INSTITUTIONS

JANUARY 31, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 323 on Friday, January 31, 1977, with Senator Jack Schofield in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Schofield
Vice-Chairman Joe Neal
Senator William Raggio
Senator Richard Blakemore (arrived at 10:00 a.m.)
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator William H. Hernstadt

GUESTS: Orville Wahrenbrock, Dept. of Human Resources
Edwin C. Burgess, Boy's School at Elko
Wm. A. Butler, Boy's School at Elko
Ned Soloman, L.V. Juvenile Court Associate Director
Frank Carmen, L.V. Juvenile Court

The meeting opened with Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock discussing the agenda for the Reno visit on Feb. 1, 1977. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that if it was possible, he would like the Committee to visit the Children's Behavioral Services construction-site. Senator Raggio asked if they could also arrange with Mr. Paul Cohen to visit the Ridge House.

S.B. 94 (See Exhibit "C"--1/24/77)

Mr. Edwin Burgess of the Elko Boy's Training School submitted a written testimony (Exhibit "A") to the Committee.

Senator Raggio asked who was the Supervisor of Parole for Elko at this time. Mr. Burgess said he was Ray Isernhagen. Senator Raggio questioned why this bill was necessary. Mr. Burgess said that currently, the Supervisor does not have the authority to make decisions on the policy-making level. Mr. Burgess said that if this bill were made law, the Superintendent at the Institution (himself and Mr. Miller of Caliente) would not be responsible for the parole program. Mr. Burgess said that this supervisor could concentrate more on "prevention" programs. Senator Faiss asked if this legislation would give the youth closer and better supervision. Mr. Burgess answered it would.

Senator Raggio asked if a State employee really could be re-classified, downward. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that his department would submit a recommendation to Personnel for such action. Mr. Burgess said this action would take place after the position was vacated.

Chairman Schofield asked if this meant that male and female counselors would combine their caseloads, and be officers for opposite sexes. Mr. Burgess said yes, and there are currently eleven (11) male counselors, and five (5) females.

Chairman Schofield asked if Mr. Burgess must now be away from the Elko Center in order to take care of the Parole supervision. Mr. Burgess said that he has not had to go to Las Vegas or Reno every month, but with the growing program, he could see this forthcoming.

Chairman Schofield questioned if it would be more efficient if Mr. Burgess would be able to oversee policy that would directly affect his school. Mr. Burgess said that he had made an administrative agreement that the Chief would report directly to the head of the Dept. of Human Resources.

Senator Hernstadt commented that he respected Mr. Burgess' candor in admitting that he had difficulty in supervising his program, and said that it appeared there was a choice of continuing these separate but unequal programs, or perhaps combining the counselors regardless of sex. Senator Hernstadt asked if this would lead to a problem? Mr. Burgess said that the cases would be decided individually. Mr. Burgess said that this combination of services occurs in the probation offices throughout the State.

Senator Raggio asked Mr. Burgess if he was aware that Mr. Jay Miller of the Caliente Girl's School was opposed to this legislation. Mr. Burgess said yes, but in May of 1976 Mr. Miller said that he was in favor of this measure, and Mr. Burgess does not know why he changed his mind. Senator Raggio said that Mr. Miller had testified that he felt the present system was good, and that in California he had observed that this consolidation does not function well. Mr. Burgess said that perhaps because the Caliente facility was smaller than the school in Elko, Mr. Miller had not been confronted with this need as of yet.

Senator Blakemore said that he was not any more in favor of this measure, than he was parole subsidy, and that before he could make a decision, he would like to talk to some of the counselors themselves.

Senator Raggio asked why this consolidation was not reflected in the Executive budget. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that if this bill passed, the Department would merge the two parole budgets, and if this had been done prematurely, it would be difficult to separate the budgets again.

Senator Raggio asked if this combination couldn't be done administratively without passage of a bill. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that in the Statutes the parole system was separated into male and female, and a change without a bill might conflict with legislative intent.

Mr. Ned Soloman of Las Vegas testified that the County Juvenile Court has trouble with how this will affect the due process for the youths, as well as, the introduction of a third agency to the process. Mr. Soloman said that with this change in administration, the youth would go to court, to the institution, and then to this separate parole agency. Mr. Soloman said if there is any change, perhaps it could go the other direction, and parolees could be returned to the local committing jurisdiction, although this might be a problem in the smaller counties.

Senator Raggio said that perhaps this was being suggested because this is the manner in which adult parole is being handled. Mr. Soloman said yes, but with youths it is preferable if there is closer coordination between the institution and the parole officer. Senator Raggio asked if Mr. Soloman were suggesting that juveniles have better rights to due process than adults. Mr. Frank Carmen said that due process in all cases must be conducted by a disinterested third party. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that there was a separate bill in the Judiciary Committee that was dealing with due process. Senator Hernstadt asked Senator Raggio if habeas corpus proceedings could take place after the youth underwent an administrative hearing. Senator Raggio replied that habeas corpus is always a remedy to determine due process, but ordinarily this becomes a review by the court, after administrative hearings.

Senator Raggio asked Mr. Soloman if he felt that the services currently being performed by the State parole officers was satisfactory. Mr. Soloman and Mr. Carmen said that Clark County Juvenile court service operates its own parole service for those youths from Spring Mountain Youth Camp, so the county and state staff interface well together. Mr. Carmen said that the jurisdiction from probation to parole changes once the child has been institutionalized in a physical sense.

Senator Schofield asked what was the caseload for the probation officers in Clark County. Mr. Carmen said with the team concept, it was about thirty (30). Mr. Carmen said that his probation and parole officers work together, but are in two separate units.

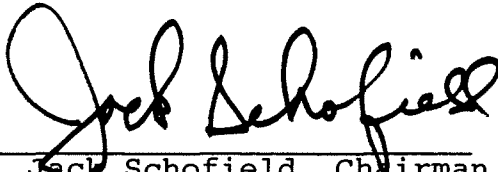
Senator Raggio asked what was the 'rule of thumb' for sending youths to either the Spring Mountain Youth Camp, or to the Elko Boy's School? Mr. Carmen said that he didn't know if there was one, however usually it depended on the condition of the youth, as well as, the number of beds available at the Camp.

Chairman Schofield asked how Mr. Soloman and Mr. Carmen evaluated the probation subsidy program. Mr. Carmen said this program was a State funding to local governments for probation to make services available which might otherwise cause a commitment to State institutions. Mr. Carmen said this has materialized in the form of "Outreach" centers where the individual can report five or six times per week, rather than just one contact/week with his counselor. Mr. Carmen said this funding has also been used to develop the re-cycling plant in Las Vegas, which gives the youths a chance to work.

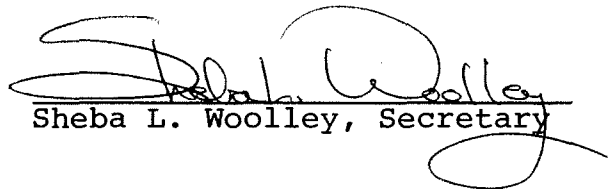
Chairman Schofield asked what was the recidivism record for the probation subsidy program. Mr. said about 17% for regular probation, and 13% for the Spring Mountain Youth Camp. Mr. Wahrenbrock said that this program deals with failures, not recidivism.

The Committee decided to hold this bill for further testimony and discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.



Sen. Jack Schofield, Chairman



Sheba L. Woolley, Secretary

Testimony in support of S. B. 94 presented before the
Senate Committee on Education, Health, Welfare and
State Institutions. January 31, 1977 by Edwin C. Burgess,
Superintendent, Nevada Youth Training Center, Elko, Nevada.

This Testimony is being presented in support of S.B. 94, to combine the parole function of the Nevada Youth Training Center and the Nevada Girls Training Center under a single Operating Unit.

As Superintendent of the Nevada Youth Training Center for the past four (4) years, it has become increasingly apparent that the Superintendent cannot adequately administer and supervise a large complex organization in Las Vegas and Reno from a home Base in Elko.

First of all, he cannot be in tune to the day-to-day needs and demands of the communities that are three to five hundred miles away. Further, he cannot provide appropriate and adequate day-to-day supervision of personnel or program.

Policy and decision-making is based on input from personnel or need assessments based on infrequent visits to the community.

There is definitely a need to have a Chief of Parole located in the community, someone with the direct responsibility and authority to make decisions and establish programs of aftercare treatment and delinquency prevention.

Passage of S.B. 94 will result in the following savings and improved services to the people of the State of Nevada.

1. Cost benefits to the state.
2. Economies in the delivery system.
3. More equitable caseloads.
4. Improved supervision of staff and program.

1. Cost Benefits to the State:

As of December 31, 1976 there were 539 youth under commitment to the two state institutions, (168 - Nevada Girls Training Center, 371 - Nevada Youth Training Center) and 17 professional parole employees.

Under the present organization there are five (5) supervisory personnel, as follows:

Las Vegas - 2 - Supervisors of Parole - Grade 36

1 - Supervising Parole Counselor-Grade 32+5%

Reno - 2 - Supervising Parole Counselors-Grade 32+5%

At any given time 60 to 70% of the youth under commitment are from the Las Vegas area; therefore, it would be realistic to place the Chief of Parole in Las Vegas and re-classify the remaining Supervisor of Parole to that of a Youth Parole Counselor (from Grade 36 to Grade 32), as well as eliminate the +5% for the Supervising Parole Counselor.

It is necessary to keep one (1) Supervising Parole Counselor in Reno, thus eliminating one (1) more supervisory role.

Approximate Savings:

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| One (1) Supervisor of Parole | Grade 36 to 32 | |
| | \$19,858.-\$16,489. | = \$ 3,370. |
| Two (2) Supervising Parole Counselors - eliminate 5% = | | 1,568. |
| | \$ 784. per position = | <u> </u> |
| | | \$ 4,938. |

Additional savings to the State will be realized in the rental and maintenance of two offices rather than four. Rental, Utilities, and Operating costs can be reduced significantly.

2. Economies in the Delivery System:

Youth are committed to the two institutions from all over the state; therefore, it is necessary that a boys parole counselor and a girls parole counselor visit each of the rural communities on a regular basis.

Through combining the parole services it is realistic that the rural travel can be reduced by 50%.

Example: Presently both the parole counselor in Elko and the parole counselor in Caliente travel to Ely and Battle Mountain for parole purposes, under a unified system it would be feasible that the parole counselor from Caliente cover both boys and girls in Ely, thus eliminating the need for the boys parole counselor to travel to Ely, the same applying to girls parole traveling to Battle Mountain.

This system to be applied to each of the rural communities.

This can significantly reduce travel time and costs.

3. More Equitable Caseloads:

As of December 31, 1976 there were 168 girls assigned to girls parole. Six (6) parole counselors carrying an average caseload of 28 girls.

There were 371 boys assigned to the boys parole and nine (9) parole counselors, carrying an average caseload of 41.22 boys.

Through combining the parole function under one Chief and re-classifying one of the present supervisory positions, the staff total working with youth is increased by one (1) position to sixteen (16).

3. More Equitable Caseloads: continued.

With redistribution of cases we will have sixteen (16) parole counselors working with 539 youth.

$$16 - 539 = 33.68 \text{ cases per counselor}$$

4. Improved Supervision of Staff and Program:

Having observed the Nevada Youth Training Center's parole program for the past seventeen (17) years, I have seen the program grow from two (2) parole counselors and no offices to ten (10) parole counselors and four (4) offices.

At one time the Superintendent could administer the parole operation with minimum effort.

Today, the needs in the area of parole are great and require a great amount of organization, planning and supervision. It has reached a point that in order to do an acceptable job in Parole requires the Superintendent to be away from the Center for at least one week each month.

Once again by observation and experience, this absence leads to many problems at the Center.

It is essential that we have a Chief of Parole who has the direct responsibility, authority and mobility to supervise the state's parole program.