

EDUCATION, HEALTH, WELFARE & STATE
INSTITUTIONS

FEBRUARY 1, 1977

The Committee met at the Achievement House West in Reno at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 1977, with Senator Jack Schofield as Chairman.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Schofield
Vice-Chairman Joe Neal
Senator William Raggio
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator William H. Hernstadt

GUESTS: Assemblyman William A. Kissam

HOSTS: Mr. Pete and Mrs. Carol Torry, Achievement House West
Dan Norton, Alcoholics Rehabilitation Association
Jack Smith, Ridge House Director
Alice Brown, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Bureau
Pat Burke, Executive Director of A.R.A.
Roy Dowling, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Cindy Newell, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Dick Johnston, Services to the Blind (Reno)
Brent Evans, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

ACHIEVEMENT HOUSE WEST

Mr. Pete Torry said that this House was for emotionally disturbed boys, twelve (12) years of age and older, using the model of combining teaching and counseling. Mr. & Mrs. Torry both made comments as to the psychological structure the House tries to achieve with its residents. The "Achievement Place" model originated in Lawrence, Kansas and is now ten (10) years old. The model requires that the live-in couples be professionals in education or psychology. Mr. Torry said that from the first day, the youths are directed toward conformity. At the beginning, points are given for behavior which can later be exchanged for privileges, the emphasis being on 'effort'. Towards the end of the youth's stay, he no longer is on a point system, but for a day will be in charge of the others, which gives him a feeling of responsibility.

Mr. Torry said that the youths in this home are monitored more closely than they would be in a foster home, and the teaching couple also holds parent groups once per week and are available at all times to both the parents and the child. Mr. Torry said the approach to rehabilitation is different in a 24 hour living situation, than a one (1) hour clinical session. Mrs. Torry said that the home is an alternative to institutionalization which before was not available to the boys.

Mr. Torry said that the cost per month, per child, with the current six (6) beds, is \$1,100; and when the home utilizes eight (8) beds, it will drop to \$940.00. (This was compared to the Las Vegas Mental Health Center where it costs from \$85.00 to \$90.00/day for care). Mr. Torry added that most of the boys stay from three to five months, five days during the week, and are supposed to go home for the weekends. Mrs. Torry said that every effort is made to get the parent to cooperate on the weekends, and to ensure that all is running smoothly, the Torry's make home visits on most Saturdays.

The House receives referrals from the Reno Mental Health Center, local schools, Children's Behavioral Services, and probation officers.

RIDGE HOUSE

The Senators then went to the de-tox alcoholic home funded by the Alcoholics Rehabilitation Association. Mr. Dan Norton said that because of the type of Federal funding available to the House, the only referrals they can take have to be from the jail. Mr. Norton said that the House is functioning without State funds, and runs on a Federal grant and private funds from A.R.A.

Mr. Norton stated that the House was used to "dry up" the clients for three to five days, and then every effort was made to transfer them to a different treatment center. This home housed ten (10) clients. Ms. Alice Brown from the State Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, said that in Las Vegas a similar de-tox facility called "Starting Point" had thirty-five (35) beds.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER (Reno)

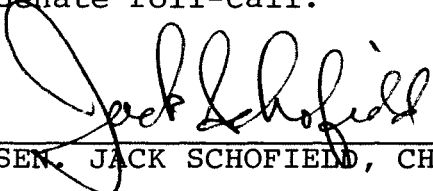
The Senators then went to the state funded Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Reno. Mrs. Cindy Newell, Mr. Roy Dowling and Mr. Dick Johnston conducted the tour.

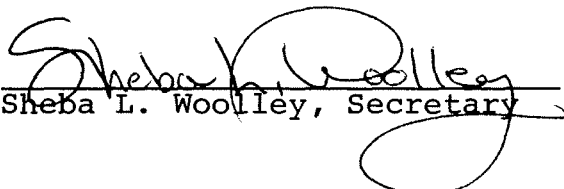
The Senators were shown the counselors offices; the medical examination rooms; the Home Management Lab and the teaching/counseling center. In the back of the building, the center houses a vocational evaluation center to see where each individual is in regards to employment. This working area, supervised by Mr. Brent Evans, teaches the handicapped how to function with co-workers and creates stamina for a full eight (8) hour day job. Mr. Johnston showed the Senators the blind-aid equipment used for every day living which is taught in the Homebound Program.

Mr. Dowling commented to the group that within two years, revenue is returned back to society through the client's income tax contribution after he has been on the job. In other words, the Federal or State money spent on the individual's rehabilitation process, pays for itself.

Mr. Johnston agreed to come to the Committee and show a film which relates to the recreational program for the blind and physically disabled.

The Committee returned to Carson City for the 11:00 a.m. Senate roll-call.


SEN. JACK SCHOFIELD, CHAIRMAN


Sheba L. Woolley, Secretary