

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 60th SESSION

May 9, 1979

Chairman Mello called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Vice-Chairman Bremner, Mrs. Cavnar, Mr. Mann, Mr. Glover, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Vergiels, Mr. Rhoads, Mr. Barengo, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Webb.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Bible, Fiscal Analyst; Judy Matteucci, Deputy Fiscal Analyst; Mike Alastuey, Budget Office.

BUREAU OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Mr. Bible said that the Human Resources Subcommittee had not closed this account. He said that the Subcommittee has now recommended that the Senate Finance Committee's actions be adopted by the Ways and Means Committee. These recommendations include the following: add SSI Title XVI, add Developmental Disabled Grant, reduction of training funds to \$1,000 each year, institute a medical claim management team through a slight reduction in the medical care category.

Motion to adopt the Subcommittee's recommendations made by Mr. Vergiels; seconded by Mr. Hickey. Motion approved.

Motion to adopt the Governor's Recommendations as amended made by Mr. Hickey; seconded by Mr. Webb. Motion approved; budget closed.

FLOYD LAMB PARK (CLARK)

Motion to re-open the Floyd Lamb Park budget made by Mr. Vergiels; seconded by Mrs. Wagner. Motion approved.

Motion to reinstate the requested appropriation made by Mr. Mann; seconded by Mr. Vergiels. Motion approved. Budget closed.

INNOVATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Bible said that the requested appropriation for institution of this program is \$60,000 for each year of the biennium. He said that testimony heard by the Human Resources Subcommittee indicated that Nevada's youth growth and population, high inflation, some relaxation of parental supervision, and youth's disenchantment with formal educational programs contributes to an increasing number of youth coming into contact with the juvenile justice system. The high cost of providing needed services to these youth includes over \$7 million of State and Federal funds handled by the State ~~equally~~ nearly an equal amount handled through other community service programs. He explained that it costs approximately \$13,000 to \$15,000 per year to maintain one youth in one of the State institutions. Mr. Bible further explained that the Subcommittee reviewed a proposal to provide grant funds to eligible agencies for the purpose of developing, implementing and testing innovative projects designed to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system thereby creating future cost savings to the entire juvenile justice system. He said that these grant funds would be made available to community based non-profit organizations under guidelines developed by the Department of Human Resources and would be directed toward services that work with parents and other family

members to divert youth from the juvenile courts, support counsel, provide work and recreational opportunities, and support services designed to keep and encourage youth to remain in school or in alternative learning situations.

Mr. Barengo asked if numerous other agencies are not already handling these functions and added that this problem could be better handled by a juvenile service agency. Mr. Mann said that similar programs have been very successful.

Mr. Hickey expressed some concern as to these funds going into jobs instead of into services and added that new programs of this type should be handled by the juvenile justice system.

Chairman Mello said that it has been his experience that programs of this type grow like wildfire at a subsequent cost of millions. Mr. Vergiels commented that the Nevada Youth Training Center is currently 20 boys over capacity. He said that investing in prevention will be much less expensive than building another center.

Mr. Webb said that this grant program would not give any appreciable amount of help and felt that the energy crisis would seriously affect the growth of Nevada and the spiraling population. Mr. Vergiels said that an economically depressed period would worsen the present problems by the resultant increase in unemployment.

Motion to adopt the grant made by Mr. Mann; seconded by Mr. Vergiels. The motion was not approved. Mr. Bremner, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Barengo, Mrs. Cavnar, Mr. Webb, Mr. Rhoads and Chairman Mello voted NO.

#### CANCER CONTROL REGISTRY

Mr. Bible said that \$79,250 funding is requested for the first year and \$82,526 the second year for a cancer control registry. He said that the Ways and Means Committee and the Human Resources Subcommittee heard testimony on a proposed cancer control budget to establish a cancer registry for Northern Nevada to coordinate with the Southern Nevada tumor registry. He explained that this registry would collect cancer data on living and deceased patients to determine the incidence of cancer in Nevada and to determine if radiation fallout from the atomic test site in Southern Nevada did cause cancer in Nevada, Arizona and Utah residents. Mr. Bible added that the project would be coordinated with the University of Nevada Medical School, the State of Utah Medical School and cancer organizations in Southern Nevada.

Mr. Mann said that he had recently received information stating that the Federal Government is proposing a similar program. Chairman Mello voiced his reluctance to wait for Federal assistance to provide this program.

Mr. Bremner asked how proof could be obtained that atomic fallout had acutally caused cancer. Mrs. Wagner said that the purpose of this program is to track the incidence of cancer and the location of those persons in relationship to the atomic tests. Mrs. Cavnar said that certain types of cancer are caused by radiation and added that the program would assist in developing methods of prevention.

Mr. Bremner suggested temporary funding of this program until such time as the Federal Government started a program.

Mr. Mann said that it would be necessary to sign contracts with the medical schools to provide the funding. Mr. Webb suggested that the existing staff and budget at the University of Nevada could implement the program.

Mrs. Wagner said that the State of Utah Medical School has been involved in this type of research for some time. Chairman Mello stated that the State of Nevada should demonstrate their interest in this program.

Motion to adopt the Cancer Control Registry program made by Mr. Barengo; seconded by Mr. Vergiels. Motion approved; budget closed.

PROJECT HOPE (HOME OPPORTUNITIES PARENT EDUCATORS)

Mr. Bible said that the Subcommittee's recommendation is that \$97,818 be approved the first year of the biennium and \$107,600 in the second year of the biennium. He said that the purpose of this program is to serve handicapped individuals from birth to age three or from birth to age five if other appropriate educational services are unavailable in the community. The proposed budget would provide for five child development specialists housed at Sierra and Desert Developmental Centers whose primary responsibility would be to counsel parents and to provide them training and appropriate treatment of youngsters with developmental disabilities who remain at home. Mr. Bible listed the aims of this program as being: 1. Reduce the trauma of the handicapped child in the home. 2. Reduce the likelihood or need for social services or institutionalization for the child. 3. Improve the learning capacity of the child preparatory to school entrance in the least restrictive environment deemed appropriate. 4. Prepare the child for as normal a life as possible. He added that this project has the potential for saving future State dollars by training parents to cope with developmentally disabled youngsters in the home environment as opposed to institutionalization at increased State costs. Mr. Bible said that there will be no expense for rent as the program will be housed at the Sierra and Desert Developmental Centers.

AB 206

Mr. Bible said that AB 206 would provide cash grants to the disabled.

The Ways and Means Committee withheld final action on Project Hope and on AB 206.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.