

Committee in session at 8:00 a.m. Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator Eugene V. Echols
Senator Norman D. Glaser
Senator Thomas R.C. Wilson
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Clifford E. McCorkle

ABSENT: Senator James I. Gibson, Vice Chairman

OTHERS Mr. Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Fiscal Analyst
PRESENT: Mr. Eugene Pieretti, Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Mr. Roland Westergard, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Dr. Ralph DiSibio, Director, Department of Human Resources
Dr. Bing Oberle, Acting Administrator, Mental Hygiene/Mental Retardation
Mr. Bob Edmondson, Deputy Director, Department of Human Resources
Dr. Robert Morgan, Chief, Community Services Education
Dr. Ken Sharigian, Director, Mental Health Institute, Sparks
Mr. Arthur Sandoval, Mental Health Advisory Board member
Ms. Autumn Keys, Mental Health Advisory Board member
Ms. Joni Wortinger, private citizen, Las Vegas
Mr. Cy Ryan, United Press
Mr. Brendan Riley, Associated Press

S.B. 198 - Restores Office of Fire Marshal

Senator Wilson moved to adopt the amendments and "Do Pass" S.B. 198.

Seconded by Senator Jacobsen.

Motion carried.

Senator Gibson absent.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Mr. Ron Sparks stated that Mr. Roland Westergard, Director of Conservation and Natural Resources, has a bill draft he wants the Committee to introduce which will move the District Supervisor of Water Commissioners from the unclassified service to the classified; and that his salary be paid 100 percent from the General Fund.

Currently the position is in the unclassified service and the law calls for his salary to be paid one-half from the General Fund and one-half from district water funds. They are not doing that; and have not done it for about seven years. What this bill would do is make the General Fund 100 percent liable for the salary and move the position into the classified service. They have been in violation of the law because the Statutes provide for payment of 1/2 the salary from the General Fund and at the same time in the Water Resources budget, the legislature has appropriated the money to pay 100 percent of the salary from the General Fund.

Senator Glaser stated this position is a State job and State responsibility, but according to the law, part of the salary is supposed to come out of the water tax on Humboldt River the supervisor works in other counties. It is not a position that the Governor could change.

Mr. Sparks added that they do have the position in the budget, funded 100 percent from the general fund. He stated either change the budget or change the law.

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Senator Lamb asked the committee to go to a joint meeting with Ways and Means and return to hear the budget for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Reorganization of the Mental Health Institute

Dr. Ralph DiSibio, Director, Department of Human Resources, Mr. Bob Edmondson, Deputy Director, Department of Human Resources, presented the re-organization plan to the committee.

Dr. DiSibio stated problems have been identified by almost all people either within the division or outside the division, but the main problem has been in the area of coordination. Also, did they in fact, when establishing each individual location, put in the kind of management, in terms of training and complexity, that was desirable. The area coordinators are being established to handle what has become even more complex with particular regard to various constituencies which they have to operate with; including the public, the legislature, the government in general, and the court systems.

Dr. DiSibio stated that he can relate to inter-divisional problems personally. Other problems that have been pointed out are related to by Dr. Bing Oberle, presently acting administrator of the Division. Some more effective coordination is necessary. There are two alternatives, one of which is to keep the status quo, the other is to establish area coordinators. Dr. DiSibio commented that they have effectively done this; except for the fact that they have not maintained the same level of administration and the same design of administration in each of the other agencies and institutions. To have maintained that level would have been least costly in terms of positions but most costly in terms of finances.

Dr. DiSibio showed the Committee charts for the reorganization. He stated that in the two major institutions, the Las Vegas Mental Health Center and the Nevada Mental Health Institute, they have tried to put more supervision, more administrative types and more clinical types in those locations. They have done so in the Las Vegas Mental Health Center by literally housing the area of the mental health coordinator at that location. They have, in the case of the institute, housed the area coordinator as well as establishing a psychiatric medical director. For example, the Mental Health Institute where the area coordinator will be located is within 5 miles of Children's Behavioral Services-Washoe and 500 yards to Lake Crossing. The Reno Mental Center is 4 miles away.

The Las Vegas Mental Health Center is 300 yards away from Children's Behavioral Services-Clark. The Rural Clinics program will have its own director as will the Henderson Mental Health Center.

Senator Echols asked Dr. DiSibio to explain the 4 directors; he thought there were going to be six. Dr. DiSibio replied that it is interesting to note, at this point in time, that if one looks at the area of Mental Retardation, what presently exists is a regional coordinator-north and a regional coordinator-south. Another way to look at the plan is that they have taken those two regional coordinators and moved them into the more complex areas of Mental Hygiene because those two regional coordinators now essentially deal with two physical plants. Within those two physical plants, they have two regional coordinators. Within the physical plants themselves, they have a residential director and a community director in both plants.

At the Desert Developmental Institute, the regional coordinator has, for the last eleven or twelve months, been operating as the regional and residential directors. What they have done is essentially abolish the regional director positions and establish that person as a residential director as well as a regional director.

Senator McCorkle asked Dr. DiSibio what kept him from eliminating the heads of the Henderson Mental Health Center and Rural Clinics.

Dr. DiSibio replied that here, the reverse is true. With the same rationale, each individual agency relative to its complexity, was either established with the director or without. In these two areas, rural clinics being an example, the people they serve and the wide range of services they provide, and the geographical problems, require a person at that level (director) to handle them. Dr. DiSibio added that the Rural Clinics Program administration is housed in Carson City; and handles the rest of the State.

Senator Glaser stated that, with the exception of the six people that are being eliminated, he assumed that they got quite a bit of support from the Division. Dr. DiSibio replied that assumption is wrong. He said they have not worked with a number of staff members, he has worked with division administrators. Dr. DiSibio stated they have been working on this reorganization plan almost a month.

Dr. DiSibio stated that on March 1, Dr. Oberle shared the plan with staff, all the directors involved. It was met with considerable opposition and they asked to meet with him personally. Dr. DiSibio offered to meet with them. Three of them accepted the offer and sat with him from 8:00 p.m. until 3:00 a.m. and essentially viewed their objections and asked him to relate his rationale. On Friday, Dr. DiSibio presented the plan to the Governor, then flew to Las Vegas. There he met with the staff in Las Vegas for many hours prior to developing the final plan. He stated he worked all weekend finalizing the version which was completed yesterday (March 5) at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Senator Jacobsen asked if this reorganization spread out the workload in any manner. Dr. DiSibio stated it will change the workload of individuals. He stated that the objections of staff are valid; that is to say their concerns, if the reorganization goes in the direction they don't want it to go, is a valid objection. If it goes the way Dr. DiSibio views it going, he doesn't think those objections are valid. Their objections are that if one takes out the Administrator and moves a Psychologist V into the position, that person will assume a lot of administrative responsibilities; and if indeed he does that, a lot of clinical time is being taken away from the patients.

Dr. DiSibio recognizes that as a real problem, but he thinks it can be solved and will be solved. That solution will result from the area mental health administrator assuming that all of the administration and also whatever percentage the individual psychologists in this institution will pick up. That will be the loss. It could range from 10 percent to 40 percent. If they all work diligently and increase the general productivity of staff, it is possible to decrease the time necessary for administration to zero.

Senator Jacobsen asked if he feels that he has the level of staff to carry on this reorganization. Dr. DiSibio said it depends on the individuals in a given agency. The individual who is presently there, has an option to move down and assume a salary cut, in that case yes. Dr. DiSibio continued that they will have to search within the staff, to find the person for the area mental health administrator who has to be a very specialized person. He hopes he can find that individual. Within the present structure of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, there a few individuals who may fit into that slot; and yet again, may not, depending on a number of things.

Senator Echols asked where the idea for this reorganization originated. Dr. DiSibio said with him.

Senator Lamb stated that he had one concern. He said the problem will arise between the coordinator and director of the Division of Mental Health/Mental Retardation. Senator Wilson asked what the deputy administrator does. Dr. DiSibio stated they could have gone either way. They may have the area coordinators report to the

Administrator, as opposed to reporting directly to the deputy; but that would be his or her decision.

Senator Wilson asked how he is going to use the deputy, and how direct the communication is going to be. Dr. DiSibio stated that if they establish 5 or 6 new programs, and they are asking for 86 new positions, and over \$15 million in buildings, the assumption is that they all will be reporting to the Division Administrator.

Senator Wilson inquired how are the regional Mental Retardation directors used. Dr. DiSibio said that in the southern region, it doesn't exist. Senator Wilson then wanted to know why it was on Dr. DiSibio's chart. Dr. DiSibio answered that is because the position is available. Actually the residential director position is empty and the regional director serves as both of those positions.

DIVISION OF MENTAL HYGIENE AND MENTAL RETARDATION - Page 301

Dr. Bing Oberle, Acting Administrator for the Division of Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation, presented the budget. Dr. Oberle stated that, per capita, Nevada ranks first in the nation for alcoholism, divorce, suicide, rape, burglary and larceny; fourth in terms of robbery and seventh in murder. Dr. Oberle stated that under the new positions, the Assistant Administrator position was suggested to be reclassified to Associate Administrator for Mental Health. On the reorganization plan it is proposed that it be deleted.

Dr. Oberle stated, that under new positions, the Chief of Mental Hygiene/Mental Retardation evaluation was a recommended new position; but they are recommending that it be deleted. They would fill that same essential function by transferring a Psychologist V from the Nevada Mental Health Institute. The purpose of this position in the central administrative office is to develop a statewide evaluation and coordination program. This position does exist within another budget now. Dr. Oberle continued that there are two area mental health coordinators, one for the north and one for the south, which will be unclassified positions at \$33,000 that are not in this budget. They are part of the reorganization.

Dr. Oberle stated that the budget presented on pages 303 and 304 represents a combination of budgets 3168, the Division budget, and 3640, the Mental Retardation budget.

Senator McCorkle observed that apparently the Legislative Commission subcommittee did not recommend that the Mental Health and Mental Retardation programs be combined; he wanted to know what Dr. DiSibio's rationale was. Dr. DiSibio replied that functionally they operate independently. They are combined budgetarily. In many cases where they are dealing with prevention, they can hire one person to do prevention who has the knowledge in both Mental Health and Mental Retardation. There is no need to hire two people for two separate areas. It would be the intent that, wherever possible, where the technology is allowable, they would hire a single individual rather than continue duplication.

Senator Lamb asked about In-State Travel. Dr. Oberle stated that figure represents a combination of \$8,440 which was in the Mental Retardation budget, combined with \$10,500 which is in the Division Work Program. So it is very close to that same amount of money.

Senator Lamb asked about the Training items of \$30,000. Dr. Robert Morgan, Chief, Human Services Education, stated that what they propose is a program where the community college would set up a part-time two-year program training only in job-related skills.

Senator Jacobsen asked if this would be during work hours or after work hours. Dr. Morgan stated after work hours. This would be an evening course approximately three nights per week.

Senator Lamb asked if they would draw a salary while they were going to school. Dr. Morgan answered yes, they would be required to work during the day at their regular position.

Dr. Morgan stated another \$10,000 in training is set aside for a single program for training mental health technicians in the south. Dr. Morgan added that another \$5,000 is set aside for statewide workshops in such areas as psychology of the the aging; \$1,800 each year to be set aside for training equipment such as books and films, \$1,000 to be set aside each year of the biennium for training supplies. Some of the training money would be used for contracts to bring a trainer in.

Senator Echols asked for the rationale where they feel there is going to be a large growth in the needs for Mental Health and Retardation services. Dr. Oberle stated that they had a 39 percent increase over two years in Mental Retardation services. A net increase for both the services for the Division of 15 percent in two years. Dr. Oberle added that people are coming into the State at a tremendous rate, bringing with them all the social and economic problems that they create.

Senator McCorkle commented that if they maintain the same level of services for the next biennium that they have now, because of corrective action they are taking, they can save a substantial amount of money. Senator McCorkle asked for a budget breakdown that would reflect the change in policy, that would reflect in some cost savings. He remarked he thought it relevant with the reorganization.

Dr. DiSibio stated that to go into detail of all the policy development would be imprudent. Dr. DiSibio continued that this budget represents a maintenance of programs in all areas, in addition to substantial increases at both developmental centers; and for good sound financial reasons in the Rural Clinics and the Henderson Mental Health Center. In those areas they are asking for some expansion.

S.B. 213 - Makes appropriation for mental hygiene and mental retardation for automated management system.

This is a recommended appropriation for a central data processing system to tie in with the basic goal of evaluating the programs of the division statistically and to coordinate billing and evaluate their other needs. This is with the state computer system in Carson City. Currently they try and gather client data from their various agencies on such things as diagnosis and prognosis.

NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE - Page 307

Dr. Ken Sharigian, Director, Mental Health Institute, Sparks, presented the budget. Dr. Sharigian stated that the Institute provides in-patient services on a statewide basis to Nevada. During Fiscal Year 1977-78, they admitted 768 Nevadans. Of that number, 562 came from Washoe County, 165 from rural Nevada, and 41 from Clark County. Of the 768 total, 35 percent were transients who are now residents of the State.

The Institute's in-patient program is divided into three major areas. In addition, they have developed over the past year three new types of community services. During January, 1979 they served 326 out-patients. They also have a day treatment program which began operation in the Fall of 1978. All of these were developed with existing staff. Day treatment provides structured 5 hours a day, 3 to 5 times a week treatment. The last week of January, 1979, they began a half-way house with CETA employees. The experience has been that a number of clients remain longer than they need to, because they do not have community placement facilities.

One thing that was done in the past fiscal year was a reorganization of the institute. This included a conversion of 12 positions,

non-clinical or lower level clinical positions to 10 professional level clinical positions, and two clerical positions to support those professionals.

Senator McCorkle stated that he understood this has resulted in a reduction in personal care because the people that were replaced were nurses; and now there is very little direct professional contact with the clients. Dr. Sharigian stated that was incorrect. He said that what they did with the reorganization was to place full-time mental health professionals on each of the in-patient units. It is true that a number of nursing positions and mental health technicians were used in the reorganization. The number of clinical positions increased. So each in-patient unit has professionals on it full-time. They do clinical supervision, oversee the program and provide direct care.

Senator Lamb called for testimony from the audience.

Mr. Arthur Sandoval, of the Mental Health Advisory Board in Las Vegas, stated that one of the concerns they had was to be able to review the reorganization. Senator Lamb asked if Mr. Sandoval didn't think that was a job to take up with Dr. DiSibio, Howard Barrett or the Governor.

Senator Lamb stated that if Mr. Sandoval wanted to discuss money or positions in the budget, that is something else; the Committee will listen. But, said Senator Lamb, don't put the Committee between the people who don't like the reorganization program and the people that are trying to get it on. Mr. Sandoval commented that as an advisory board member, one of the concerns was to make sure that the services provided in Las Vegas by the Children's Behavioral Service and the Mental Health Services are not reduced.

Mr. Sandoval continued that, at the present time, he is on the Mental Health Advisory Board. There are two concerns he would express as a member of that board. One is with the increased population growth they see in Las Vegas. The Children's Behavioral Services program has been one of the model programs around the country and they are hoping to continue to provide the type of mental health delivery system that has to exist with the increase in population.

Senator Lamb stated that there is not going to be any curtailment of the services in the budget.

Senator Echols asked how often the Advisory Board met. Mr. Sandoval stated at least twice a month for an hour and one-half.

Mrs. Autumn Keys stated she had already talked to the Governor and she had the same concerns as Mr. Sandoval. There is a state law providing that the Advisory Board be involved in any reorganization. There were hearings in Las Vegas Saturday and Sunday. Mrs. Keys stated she had no idea what was going on.

Mrs. Joni Wortinger, a concerned citizen from Las Vegas, stated she is very involved in various clubs and organizations. They have need for the facilities at the Mental Health Center. Mrs. Wortinger stated they have a problem of getting services now and that if the budget is cut, she is concerned where it is going to end up.

Dr. DiSibio stated that they all have the same concerns. The Governor is recommending 86 new positions, and also a series of building programs. It will address the problems but not solve them.

NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE (Continued)

Dr. Sharigian stated that the position conversion resulted in their putting full-time mental health professionals on the in-patient units of the Institute. In addition, they used a number

of the converted positions to improve the day treatment and out-patient service. One of the problems they were having is that when people leave the Institute, they cease to see anyone (from the Institute). Many were re-hospitalized. Their goal is to reduce the amount of patients for hospitalization. The Institute provided minimal community services a year ago. The only follow-up care was for medication. There were 326 out-patients served in January, 1979; 31 people were served in the day treatment program.

Dr. Sharigian stated that in assessing their reorganization that was completed in November, 1978, they have made more progress with community services than in-patient services.

Senator Lamb asked the members of the Advisory Board if they knew how much more money is being put into the Mental Health and Mental Retardation budget. Mr. Sandoval replied that they did not know at this time. Senator Lamb asked if they knew what the capital improvement program is. Mr. Sandoval said they do have the figures; but he didn't know. Senator Lamb gave the following figures that have been recommended: \$5 million in capital construction; 78-79 total operational monies is \$22.7 million; 79-80 is \$26 million, 80-81 is \$27.4 million.

Dr. DiSibio remarked about the reorganization. He stated he felt committed to share it with the Governor and the legislature. Last week he met with the Mental Health Center Advisory Council and listened to their concerns, talked to them about being advocates, and told them they (Mental Health and Retardation) were working on a plan to present to the legislature.

Senator Wilson stated he is in a dilemma on the reorganization. He stated that he is sensitive to their administration, but he is a little skeptical about the suggestions; commenting that the Division had the burden of advocating it. He said further that it is apparent that the Committee is not going to be exposed to much debate on the pro and con in this hearing. He stated he finds it difficult to judge the proposition where it isn't subjected to any kind of test.

Dr. Sharigian stated that the Washoe County Mental Health Service has been criticized in the past for having a duplication of services and lack of coordination of services. The Reno Mental Health Center provides out-patient services as does the Institute. Therefore, it has been proposed that there be a clearer division of labor and that the Institute provide all adult services in Washoe County. The Reno Mental Health Center will provide all adolescent services for Washoe County and the Children's Behavioral Services provide all children's mental health services. If that becomes operational then you will notice there are transferred from the Reno Mental Health Center, on page 313, five positions to the Mental Health Institute. Those positions and their existing caseload, which averages about 1,000 patients a year, will be transferred.

Senator McCorkle stated that if there are a thousand cases a year, the question is should we try and serve all thousand cases; or do we want to prioritize the applicants. Dr. Sharigian stated that his information about the caseload comes from the Reno Mental Health Center, but they serve all ranges of severity. One of the things they find in Mental Health and one of the national trends, is to try to treat people in their local community in the least restrictive setting possible.

Dr. Sharigian continued that if those thousand people did not get served, a certain percentage of them would require hospitalization. Senator McCorkle asked if it is the policy of the Institute now to attempt to serve anyone who applies, or do they screen. Dr. Sharigian answered that they do screen and try to refer people to an appropriate service level. For example, a year ago, before the reorganization, everyone who came to the Institute, received in-patient

service or didn't get anything at all. Now, as they come to the Institute, they look at what their needs are: out-patient service, day treatment service or in-patient service. Sometimes they don't need mental health services at all; and they send them to the welfare office or whatever.

Dr. Sharigian continued that under New Positions, it is recommended that they receive one Psychologist V and one Psychiatric Social Worker II. Those two positions would also be attached to the out-patient services, along with the five transferred positions. They estimate that each professional can handle 210 clients per year. These two positions would help them absorb the increasing demand for that service at a minimum level associated with the increase in population.

Another new position is grounds worker and also principal account clerk. On Page 309, under the Revenue section, for the first time the institute is being specifically assigned to collect \$107,000 in Title XIX receipts and \$125,000 in Title XVIII. In addition, there is an increase of \$65,000 in receipts for third party payments over the previous Work Program. The principal account clerk is required to aide in bringing in these increased collections. In addition to the principal account clerk, they are asking for one custodial worker.

Senator Jacobsen asked if they kept any record of the number of people in their training courses, and the results of the courses. Dr. Sharigian stated they didn't have a trainer before, but now they do. The policy at the Institute now states that the staff must receive a minimum in-service training of at least 25 hours a year. They would hope that would be closer to 40 hours per year. They are proposing, of the \$10,000 (for Training), that \$3,500 be used to purchase standardized training material. They have a 45 percent turnover rate in mental health technicians and they are requesting another \$4,900 to pay for para-professional staff to attend conferences and workshops and taks some classes at Western Nevada Community College. These would not be the staff who would be selected to work in the pilot program that Dr. Morgan presented to the Committee who would be getting an A.A.-degree in mental health technology.

Dr. Sharigian continued that if there was an outside speaker giving a two-day workshop on how to deal with stress, they would pay for the mental health technicians to attend these conferences. He said they are asking for \$1,600 of that \$10,000 to bring in outside speakers.


Dr. Sharigian stated there is \$10,000 for replacement of a van in the Equipment Category, used to pick up day treatment clients.

Senator McCorkle asked if they were at capacity at the Institute. Dr. Sharigian answered that they go between 114 and 118 in-patients and the capacity is for 118. The last biennium the capacity was about 100 for Mental Health. The last legislature approved transferring the mental retardation clients that were housed at the Institute and 86 staff to provide services to those clients into the Sierra Developmental Center. On June 30, 1977, their psychiatric caseload was 94.

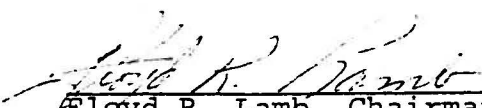
Dr. Sharigian stated that in the Operating Category, the Contract Services go from a Work Program for this fiscal year of \$64,000 to an agency request of \$88,000. They have an outside firm do a depreciation schedule on cost accounting for medicare and Title XIX monies; contract services also go to employing a dietician 15 hours a week as required by Title XIX.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Carol Lee Chavez, Secretary

APPROVED:


Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman