MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE February 13, 1981

The Senate Committee on Finance was called to order by Vice Chairman James I. Gibson at 8:00 a.m., Friday, February 13, 1981, in Room 231 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator James I. Gibson, Vice Chairman Senator Eugene V. Echols Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen Senator Norman D. Glaser Senator Thomas R. C. Wilson Senator Clifford McCorkle

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald W. Sparks, Chief Fiscal Analyst Dan Miles, Deputy Fiscal Analyst Candace Chaney, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Carr, Division of Health Paul Cohen, Division of Health James A. Edmundson, Division of Health Howard Barrett, Budget Division

DIVISION OF HEALTH

Dr. John Carr, State Health Officer, and Paul Cohen, Administrative Health Officer, continued the presentation of the budgets under the Health Division.

<u>Vital Statistics</u> (Pg. 436). Mr. Cohen stated a one-shot appropriation was being requested for this agency to provide some type of medical filing system for increased space utilization of vital statistics records. The appropriation does not have a bill number as yet.

Senator Gibson inquired if this agency reproduced marriage certificates. Mr. Cohen replied that the agency kept the originals of the records and certified copies were given at Carson City.

The Vice Chairman then asked if the vital statistics fees reverted to the General Fund. Mr. Cohen said yes, and \$44,000 in revenue was anticipated this year. He noted that if S.B. 144 was implemented, fees would increase to \$110,000 and \$120,000 respectively for the coming biennium.

Immunization Program (Pg. 440). Dr. Carr stated that this program utilized all Federal funds. He remarked that the Immunization Coordinator was a Public Health Service assignee. He noted there was nothing unusual in this budget from the last time.

Senate Committee on Finance February 13, 1981 Senator McCorkle asked what the Federal total budget was for this program. Mr. Cohen said the agency expected \$128,674 but noted it might be less. Senator McCorkle asked how much less it might be. Mr. Cohen felt it could be between \$25,000 to \$28,000 less. Consumer Health Protection Services (Pg. 443). Dr. Carr noted that this budget was a large one and rather complicated. He said the program was recommended with the Safe Drinking Water Program to implement a savings of State monies by increasing the crossmatching of the personnel. Dr. Carr noted the reason for requesting additional State funds stemmed from the are of salaries for another radiological position and a secretarial position. He said the new positions had nothing to do with the Beatty facility, but with the increase and monitoring of the X-ray machines and the radioactivie generating machines that are in doctor's offices and labs that the agency is required to monitor each year. He stated there were significant increases in salaries, operating, specialized equipment, and in travel. program. Under "Beatty Special Projects", Mr. Cohen said that the budget figure was noted in the program statement. He stated that if

Mr. Cohen stated that "contract services" had increased due to a combination of legal and lab fees under the Safe Drinking Water

the Beatty site needed special technical assistance, those funds were to be used to contract the special services.

Mr. Cohen commented that the "professional services" category involved the fees that go to the State laboratory to provide water quality control testing.

In the "special projects" category, Mr. Cohen said these were funds for special arsenic projects under the Safe Drinking Water program. The deadline on this program had been extended to 1984 and 1986, but, the Environmental Protection Agency feels these funds will be cut back.

Mr. Cohen stated that the "aid to counties" budget was to contract with Clark and Washoe District Health Departments wherever possible to provide staff and quality control for Safe Drinking Water programs in lieu of the State providing these services.

Senator Wilson asked how the new positions would be utilized. Mr. John Edmundson, Bureau Chief for Consumer Health Protection Services, said the radiological position was needed because of increased number of x-ray machines and increases in industrial radiography, notably well-logging and construction. He discussed an incident that took place in Imlay the previous week where a worker from Idaho was given a heavy dosage of x-ray due to improper handling of equipment. The worker had gone to a hospital in Idaho for treatment by the time Consumer Health Protection Services had been informed of the accident. Mr. Edmundson reiterated that the new position was needed to more properly monitor those kinds of situations. He noted that the injured worker was x-raying a tank being built at Imlay and did not have the proper shielding on.

Senator Wilson asked if the position was not specifically for the Beatty dump site. Mr. Edmundson replied that it was not for the Beatty site, only in case of an emergency.

Senator Wilson inquired as to what the division's program was regarding Beatty dump site security and inspection. Mr. Edmundson said there was a full-time inspector at the site.

Senator Wilson then asked if loads were sent back if improperly packaged. Mr. Edmundson noted that several loads had been sent back to the shipper but was not the standard policy for every situation. Mr. Cohen remarked that the radiological position had been approved by Interim Finance during a 1979 hearing.

Senator Echols asked if it was a private contractor that was building the tank near Imlay. Mr. Edmundson said it was a private contractor from Idaho who had registered with the State. The contractor reported the incident to the division.

Senator Echols inquired as to the amounts of monies budgeted for monitoring activities. Mr. Edmundson stated there was not a significant amount, mainly for salary and travel.

Senator Echols felt there was an inordinate amount of money budgeted for in-state and out-of-state travel. He asked if out-of-state travel to the Federal environmental agencies was mandated by the Federal government. Mr. Edmundson remarked that this travel was by Federal mandate and a large portion paid for by federal dollars.

Senator Echols asked why in-state travel had doubled noting that the growth of the State had not doubled as yet. Mr. Edmundson noted the increased travel was due, in part, to the new radiological position, and, the growth of mining activities in the rural counties making more travel necessary for the sanitarians.

Senator McCorkle requested an explanation of the fee schedule set up as a result of the Governor's Task Force recommendations. Mr. Cohen stated that if S.B.144 passed, the division would obtain approximately \$22,000 in registration/licensing fees of non-Beatty activities. In the sanitarian area, licensing fees might generate \$102,000 to \$103,000. The engineering area might anticipate funds up to \$18.000 if they charged for planning review. He noted that the aforementioned were all fees not presently garnered. Mr. Cohen said the collection of these fees was an agency contingency plan in case of loss of Federal funds. He noted there were two options open to the agency concerning these fees. One, Interim Finance could give the division authorization to bring the fees into their revenue account and disperse accordingly; two, give money to the agency through Interim Finance action and whatever monies were generated would go back into the General Fund.

Senator McCorkle asked why they did not implement the fee schedules even if Federal funds were not lost. Mr. Cohen stated that the schedules were to be implemented if <u>S.B.144</u> were approved through the Board of Health. He noted, for the record, that the fee scheduling programs would not be implemented overnight.

The Vice Chairman inquired if the agency would implement many of their programs had not the Federal government required it. Mr. Edmundson said the agency was carrying out all programs before Federal intervention, only not on such a large scale. He noted that the agency was forced to use the Federal national computer programming system which had incurred much added expense.

Senator Gibson said it was not his inclination to substitute State funds for Federal funds. The Vice Chairman felt there might be programs that the Federal government requires that are not really necessary. Mr. Cohen added that if the Safe Drinking Water program were terminated, nine positions could be eliminated. He said State funds would only be requested if there was an impending violation of a law.

Senator McCorkle asked if the division saw itself as an advocate of the State or of the Federal government. Mr. Cohen said the division was the advocate of the State. He noted that the State should be the buffer between the Federal government and local counties. Mr. Edmundson commented that sometimes Federal law superceded State law, so, by law, the agency is required to enforce Federal requirements.

Dr. Carr believed his agency had acted as a buffer between the Federal government and the State. He noted that the agency was constantly trying to explain the Federal side to the State and local counties, and vice-versa. He remarked that it gave the agency the feeling of constant argument with all concerned parties; he felt it was that kind of advocacy.

Uranium Mills Licensing (Pg. 446). This program was enabled by legislation that would permit the agency to inspect, license, and regulate any uranium mining operations that might come into the State. Dr. Carr said, previously, inquiries had been made concerning operations starting up in the State. To date, no serious action has been taken. Dr. Carr noted that no monies had been expended, and, none of the positions were on-board.

Mr. Edmundson noted that the budget would not be activated unless there were an actual application for uranium mill operation.

Senator Gibson inquired, if so, why were two new positions being requested for this budget. Mr. Edmundson stated that two years ago, very little was known about uranium mining. Now, he said, more is known regarding the requirements of the uranium mills and the protection of the workers. Mr. Cohen noted that the salaries for the two new positions would be generated by the license fees. He said the budget had increased due to new Federal regulations and the figures had been estimated by the division to make the program a self-supporting one. Mr. Edmundson added that no monies would be spent until revenues were generated.

Mr. Sparks asked if the division had spent the one-shot appropriation for training and equipment at the Beatty site. Mr. Cohen said yes.

Drug Licensing Program (Pg. 448). Dr. Carr stated this program was an outgrowth of the laetrile/gerovital bill of 1977. He noted there were two gerovital manufacturers in the State and no laetrile manufacturers. This program allowed for other drug companies to come into the State and manufacture drugs. Dr. Carr said, to date, none have.

Mr. Edmundson said the annual licensing fees for the two gerovital manufacturers was approximately \$30,000 each. He noted that the agency had spent approximately \$50,000 before any revenues were generated but now were ahead of monies expended. He indicated the reason for maintaining this high a budget was for potential new drug manufacturing.

Senator Wilson asked the titles of the drug manufacturers in operation at present. Mr. Edmundson noted the names of the manufacturers were Rom-Amer Pharmaceuticals, and Swartzhoss-Nevada, Inc.

Mr. Cohen added that fee scheduling had been changed to correlate with the agency's fiscal year. He noted that monies not expended would go back into the reversion fund; he anticipated the figure to be more than \$9,600.

<u>Venereal Disease Control</u> (Pg. 450). Dr. Carr indicated this program was also involved in the Sunset Study. The Sexually Transmitted Disease Program, he said, was under the Center of Disease Control Program thereby obtaining more Federal and decreasing State funds.

Dr. Carr said this program paid for three employeees and had two Public Health assignees not paid for by the program. He noted there was also a Rural Communicable Disease Inspector. He commented on the decrease in State appropriations and the increase of Federal funds for this program.

Mr. Cohen reviewed the "aid to counties" category indicating contracts with Clark and Washoe District Health Departments in lieu of State employees. He noted that the agency might be utilizing Clark County fee schedule structure as an example for the agency's fee scheduling in the veneral disease program. He said Federal regulations do not prohibit the agency from charging fees so as not to inhibit people from coming in and getting services.

The Vice Chairman asked how the agency determined its potential caseload. Mr. Cohen stated they used vital statistics records of the ages between 14 and 49, where the largest concentration of clients are. Dr. Carr noted that in Nevada, gonorrhea was second in the nation as far as cases per capita. For syphillis, Nevada was eighth. He commented that to try and use a medical policy to deal with a social problem was practically impossible.

Senator Wilson inquired if the projected caseload was based on what they thought would be an actual figure. Dr. Carr remarked that the agency was going by its case rates. He said last year there were 911 cases per 100,000 population. He noted that the national average was 453, so Nevada was double the rate of the national average. Mr. Cohen said veneral disease involved a "case pyramid", all concerned individuals had to be tracked down.

Senator McCorkle asked if the high rate of gonorrhea in Nevada was due to a tourist impact. Dr. Carr indicated it was due to a highly mobile and growing population which would include tourists that reported any case within the State. He said it would be hard to estimate how many tourists contacted the disease in the State, yet received treatment elsewhere.

Family Planning (Pg. 453). Mr. Cohen stated this program had been a federally funded one with Title XX Social Services through Welfare. He indicated that originally the agency had thought to expand the pgoram. He stated that it was a rural program only and did not take care of Clark or Washoe Counties. Mr. Cohen said when the economic situation hit, the program was cut back. A notice was received from the Director's office indicating that due to cutbacks in Title XX Social Services funds, the program would not be eligible for those funds. He noted that was the reason there were no State appropriations in this budget; it was a straight, federally funded program. There will be a decrease in this program. The projected caseload for fiscal year 1982 will be 2,876 clients, for fiscal year 1983 a caseload of 2,629 clients are projected. There had been an error on these projected client numbers in the budget.

Senator McCorkle asked why a Planned Parenthood-type of organization were not established in the larger rural towns so as to alleviate the need for Federal funds. Dr. Carr noted there were no Planned Parenthood offices in the rural areas. He said they were a non-profit organization which probably could not survive in the rural areas. He indicated some other similar organizations were in Clark and Washoe Counties but were run on Federal grants.

Senator McCorkle asked why that type of organization was not encouraged to come to the rural areas. Mr. Cohen said the agency made the organizations aware of what was available, but that was as far as the agency went. He felt the agency could not "push" the issue.

Senator Gibson inquired as to the "local"funds listed in the budget. Mr. Cohen said a sliding fee schedule had been initiated using local funds; approximately \$15,000 was anticipated in generated revenue.

Senator Glaser asked how the outlook was regarding the availability of Federal funds for this program. Mr. Cohen felt the outlook was not good. He said he had been told by an official in Washington, D.C. that the Family Planning program was on the "hit list" of the new administration there. Mr. Cohen believed that the Family Planning program was going to be impacted significantly.

Bureau of Laboratory and Research (Pg. 456). Dr. Carr noted this bureau was to be put under the Bureau of Health Facilities in order to obtain better coordination for lab licensing and certification, as well as, personnel economy. He said there had been some significant increases in expenses. Dr. Carr indicated there had been one cutback in personnel, that of the Chief of the Public Health Lab. The Lab Supervisor position was planned to be upgraded slightly to provide local control of the operation.

Mr. Cohen said operating expenses were significantly increased due to the rising costs of technical supplies. He stated that the costs of these supplies had increased from 25% to 250%. He also noted that utility costs had increased significantly.

Senator Wilson asked what was so unique about operating supplies that would cause such an increase. Mr. Cohen replied that the need for reagents, and supplies obtained from sole sources were the reasons for the increases.

Senator Wilson inquired if there were any alternate sources of those types of supplies. Mr. Cohen said bids went out through the State Purchasing Department every April and standing bid orders were obtained. State Purchasing, he said, told the bureau which contractor had the best price, and who they were to contract with for supplies and services.

Senator Wilson then asked how many contractors competed to respond to the invitation to bid. Mr. Cohen answered that in some cases there were from zero to a dozen bids; it depended on the type of material being sought.

Senator McCorkle asked why the program could not be entirely self-supporting through fees. Mr. Cohen felt they would be forcing the public not to come in for service if fees were charged. He noted there were some fees charged. Lab certification fees had not been eliminated in terms of revenue; they would be brought into the General Fund.

Senator McCorkle inquired if there were some way of getting around fthe problem of discouraging people from coming in by charging fees. Dr. Carr indicated legislative help would be needed. He said consumers argue that if the law requires them to have testing done, the consumer should not have to pay for it.

Mr. Cohen felt they not have an answer for Senator McCorkle.

Senator McCorkle asked if they might charge a \$10 across-the-board fee to determine if there might be much resistance, if not, charge \$15 to \$20 the next year. Mr. Cohen indicated the agency might do so. He noted that theywanted to approach the situation very carefully through public hearings and reviews.

The Vice Chairman throught there was a fallacy in Mr. Cohen's argument. He noted that people pay for a driver's license and yet there doesn't seem to be a lack of drivers. Senator Gibson felt there were two types of things that were happening; one, people were saying there is too much government and were tired of paying for it; two, people were saying there are too many free services and whoever uses them should pay for them. Senator Gibson concurred with those types of feelings expressed.

Mr. Cohen noted that the Governor's Task Force had recommended that the custodial postion in this budget be contracted from the Department of Buildins and Grounds. His division did not agree with that recommendation.

Senator Glaser felt that a moderate fee for well testing could be assessed without complaint by the consumer. He then asked the status on the lab position recommendation by the Governor's Task Force. Mr. Cohen said the Task Force had recommended the elimination of two positions to be replaced with two other positions at different down-grades. He felt the agency had exceeded the Task Force recommendation by eliminating a higher position.

Senator McCorkle requested a formal breakdown proposal of the functions within the division that might require testing of some nature. Mr. Cohen said he would provide such information to the committee.

Senator Gibson asked if there were any fees involved with the pending bill, S.B. 144. Mr. Cohen said no.

Senator Jacobsen inquired as to the amount of positions in the milk testing program. Mr. Cohen stated he would provide that information to the Senator.

Senator Jacobsen then asked if a bad test result was obtained at one of the municipal wells, would retesting reoccur on a more frequesnt schedule. Mr. Cohen affirmed this statement, adding retesting would be done with notification to the owner.

Tuberculosis Control (Pg. 460). Dr. Carr noted that the main item in this budget, aside from the new position requested, concerned the infusion of \$60,000 in Federal refugee funds made available by the Federal government due to the influx of Southeast Asians coming into various parts of the country with tuberculosis. He said the numbers of TB cases fluctuated. He indicated the rate at present was very low, but that it took only a few cases to make a great deal of difference as far as incidence and prevelance went.

Mr. Cohen stated that Interim Finance had approved the \$60,000 for the refugee program for which the State was eligible through Public Health Service funds to offset expenses related to the refugee program. He noted, therefore, State appropriation monies were reduced.

Mr. Cohen said the new position request was to be paid by Federal funds, one-half of the position from the refugee program, and one-half from the Veneral Disease program.

"Aid to Counties" again was the contracting of services with Clark and Washoe Public Health Districts in lieu of State employees.

Senator Gibson said he thought at one time, the last case of TB in Nevada had almost been eliminated. Dr. Carrr indicated it was very hard to stamp out the last case. He noted in screening programs, the lower the incidence gotten, the more negatives received.

Cancer Control Registry (Pg. 463). Dr. Carr noted that this budget was formerly contracted out under the aegis of the University. Through a series of discussions, the University decided that it did not want the budget. He said the agency had been directed to present a budget that would deal with the bureau and the one presented actually represented a decrease. Dr. Carr stated that the monies requested were approximately half of what was formerly allocated. He said it was suggested that the budget be within their division and to use State personnel.

Mr. Cohen indicated that was the budget where \$25 of State funds were given for every \$10 generated. He said under a proposal given to Mr. Barrett, the matching of funds would be eliminated. Mr. Cohen said they were requesting a transfer in of three positions that were presently housed at the University. They also requested two new positions.

Senator McCorkle asked what the original projected budget for this agency was reduced by. Mr. Cohen said the concept of the matching funds did not change, so there would not be any effect on how much was saved by expanding the program statewide.

Senator Jacobsen requested one of the Registry forms. He asked if the division felt the Cancer Control Registry was productive in any other manner than registering. Dr. Carr said without the registry there would not be incidence and prevalence data, only death data.

Senator Jacobsen inquired if anyone other than the agency utilized the data. Mr. Cohen said the whole intent of the program was to develop a baseline data prevalence for researchers to get a track on cancer in the State of Nevada.

Senator Jacobsen asked if anyone had come to the Registry seeking information. Mr. Cohen said no.

Senator Wilson inquired as to the status of "contract services". Mr. Cohen commented that \$11,250 and \$415,500 in the contract services budget was for the continuation of use of the Rocky Mountain Data Base Center in Salt Lake City for access to other state's abstract programs.

Emergency Medical Services (Pg. 469). Mr. Cohen said this was the last budget under the Sunset Study. He noted the decrease in the bottom line was due to the Fleischmann grant which went to the State Communications Board. It will be completed as of June 30th. He stated that part of the original agreement to the Fleischmann Foundation \$61,087 was requested for the first year, and, \$67,196 was requested for the second year. This is flow-through money which will go to the State Communication Board to maintain the mountain-top equipment that had been purchased by the Fleischmann grant.

Mr. Cohen noted that "contract services" involved the contracts with the community colleges to run the training programs for emergency medical service technicians.

Senator Jacobsen asked how many technicians had been processed through the community college's training program. Mr. Cohen stated in fiscal year 1980, 980 were trained; for fiscal year 1981, in roughly the first six months, 472 had been trained.

Senator Gibson inquired as to how long an ambulance lasted. Mr. Cohen said the agency had been authorized to purchase 19 ambulances over the biennum. He felt the ambulances should last longer than the agency's commercial cars.

Senator Jacobsen said the ambulances in Douglas County were compiling 20,000 miles per year and would last an average of three years.

Senator Wilson asked if the budget was complete with regards to the recommendations column in relation to "Funds Available" and "Total Agency Expenditures." Mr. Cohen indicated that Mr. Barrett did not have any authority to show that as a recommendation because it was one of the five Sunset budgets.

Senator McCorkle asked if it was unheard of to charge fees for medical emergency services. Senator Jacobsen said that fees were charged in Douglas County for the local services. Mr.Cohen noted that on the State level, a small fee could be charged for the private ambulances. He added that the State did not deliver the direct services, they merely helped the locals. The agency provided certification to the emergency medical technicians and instructors and charged a fee for this certification.

The Vice Chairman felt that the knowledge of emergency medical treatment should be more widespread among the populace. Mr. Cohen indicated that, at present, the charging of fees was prohibited, all were volunteer technicians in the rural areas.

Senator McCorkle asked if a fee were charged for the private certification and for the certification of the attendants. Mr. Cohen replied that fees were charged for the ambulance license. Fees were not charged for the certification of the attendants due to advice of counsel, that might be potential discrimination and would be prohibited by law.

Senator Jacobsen felt the local areas could not afford to lose any of the administrative people from this division. He said the local emergency medical services depended on thse people to inspect ambulances, furnish training, etc. Senator Jacobsen noted that the local emergency medical services actually did the work so the least the State could do was to furnish the surveillance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Candace Chaney, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Floyd R, Lamb, Chairman

DATED: 2/23/8/

SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee	on	FINANCE			Room	231
Day	(See	Below)	 Date	(See Below)	Time	8:00 a.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1981

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SYSTEM

- System Administration (Pg. 186 Dr. Donald Baepler)
- Computing Center (Pg. 210 Niels Anderson)
- University Press (Pg. 208 Robert Laxalt)
- Desert Research Institute (Pg. 258.1 Clifford Moreno)
- Ag Experiment Station (Pg. 202 Dr. Joseph Crowley).
- Co-op Extension (Pg. 204 Dr. Joseph Crowley)
 UNR School of Medical Sciences (Pg. 205 Dr. Robert Daugherty)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1981

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SYSTEM

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Pg. 220 Dr. Leonard Goodall)
- Intercollegiate Athletics, UNLV (Pg. 230 Dr. Leonard Goodall)
- Statewide Programs, UNLV (Pg. 232 Dr. Leonard Goodall)
 Business Center South (Pg. 234 Dr. Leonard Goodall)
- University of Nevada, Reno (Pg. 189 Dr. Joseph Crowley)
- Intercollegiate Athletics, UNR (pg. 200 Dr. Joseph Crowley)
- Statewide Programs, UNR (Pg. 214 Dr. Joseph Crowley)
- Business Center North (Pg. 218 Dr. Joseph Crowley)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1981

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SYSTEM

- Northern Nevada Community College (Pg. 254 Dr. Bill Berg)
 Western Nevada Community College (Pg. 243 Dr. Jack Davis)
- 3. Truckee Meadows Community College (Pg. 248 Dr. Jim Eardley)
- Clark County Community College (Pg. 236 Cr. Judith Eaton)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1981

Civil Defense (Pg. 601-617....Barney Diehl)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1981

- Completion of the Health Division (if necessary) (Pg. 406-Dr.Carr) Department of Administration (Pg. 53-64...Howard Barrett)

ATTENDANCE ROSTER FORM	COMMITTEE MEETINGS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE	u
DATE: February 13, 1981	

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