

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

March 4, 2003

NEVADA STATE LEGISLATORS
Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Recently, the Nevada Department of Corrections' correctional officers enjoyed a ten-percent in pay increase. We were glad to see that happen—theirs is not a glamorous job, but indeed a very necessary component in our society—We know. We work alongside them at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC) here in Carson City.

We work at the Regional Medical Facility (RMF) at NNCC as Forensic Specialist III's an even less glamorous job, but as necessary a component for the effective and legal function of the prison system as is the correctional officer. As a forensic our job responsibilities blur between those of a nurse and a correctional officer. The forensics at the RMF care for inmates in need of mental and medical attention.

Caring for the infirmed at the RMF entails a lot of dirty work; cleaning up body fluid spills (blood, feces, vomit, urine, etc); being exposed to various diseases: Bi-Polar disorder, Multiple Personality Disorders, Paranoid Schizophrenia, Severe depression, Suicidal ideation's, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, MRSA... etc; cleaning patients who evacuate in bed; changing diapers; changing bedding; showering, shaving, brushing teeth's, feeding those too debilitated to do for themselves; dispensing medications with the nurses; supervising meals; supervising inmate porters; managing time schedules for laundry and new commits; and many other tasks. We also have to perform duties in line with those of correctional officers, we are required to be category 3 peace officers: conducting counts, room and body searches, escorting inmates', ensuring inmates' imprisonment; ensuring the safety of inmates and staff alike; and ensuring the security of equipment and supplies: (EKG machines, oxygen concentrators, IV's, chemotherapy, needles, two way radios, computers—all the while being reminded that these infirmed inmates are incarcerated for having committed serious crimes. In addition to performing tasks appropriate to the fields of nursing and corrections, all forensics are required familiarity with the bulk of paperwork used by both nursing staff and correctional officers.

Because of all the responsibilities with which forensics are charged, merged from the fields of nursing and corrections, and the hardship inherent in any job in which one must see people suffer and some who die. Some of which who are potentially dangerous. We humbly request your consideration and endorsement of a pay raise as outlined in AB173 for forensics working within the prison system and Lakes crossing, that we did not receive last legislation and that our bill be passed. We are certainly a group of state employees who now work under custody who deserve the pay raises afforded any other category 3 peace officers.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter.

Tania J. Arguello, Forensic Specialist IV-Northern Nevada Correctional Center

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS
DATE: 3-5-03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT G
SUBMITTED BY: Tania Arguello