

55TH NEVADA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
WELFARE - Chairman Woodrow Wilson March 17, 1969

Members Present: Wilson, Swallow, Espinoza, May, Frzzini and Foote.

Absent : Homer and Hafen.

Chairman Wilson convened the meeting at 2:30 P.M. and introduced the following interested persons.

Mrs. Rosie Seals, President, ADC Mothers Club; Mrs. Mary Garrett, ADC Mother's Club, Las Vegas; Mrs. Carol Smith, ADC Mother's Club, Las Vegas, Mrs. Erma Fritchen, ADC Mother's Club, Reno; Mrs. Dorothy F. Lee, Family Aide, Kit Carson, Las Vegas; Mr. Francis Edwards, C.E.P. Las Vegas; Mrs. Bessie L. Brooks, ADC Mother, Las Vegas; Margaret Turney, ADC Mother's Club; Edna Scott, ADC Mother; Nancy Goodwin, VISTA under Washoe EOB; Gerry Patten, VISTA; E.P. Webber, VISTA; Angie Natie, VISTA, Washoe CAP; Kirby Lassiter, VISTA, Washoe CAP; William C. Webb, Outreach Worker, East Reno; John Parker, VISTA, Carson City; George H. Dermody, VISTA, Carson City; Cecilly Jacobsen, Fallon, N.S.E.A.; Mary E. March, Fallon NSEA; Helen Westbrook, O.E.O., Washoe County; Margaret Turney, Las Vegas; Ada Richmond, Reno; Andy Gordon, Black Springs; Paula McDonald, LVN; JoAnne Wesley, LVN; R.N. Cooper, Las Vegas; Deborah Janes, Las Vegas; Francis Edwards, L.V. N. Council Project Director; David Slemmons, Intern; John Henry Deed, NSEA, Teacher, Robert Cassidy, Welfare Division; Dr. McAllister, State Hospital; Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock, State Health & Welfare Division, and Mr. Bob Miller, State Welfare Division.

Chairman Wilson said that Dr. McAllister had attended the meeting primarily to give further advice on A.B. 474, and for that reason, requested the Committee to hear Dr. McAllister first.

A.B. 474.- Enacts Interstate Compact on Mental Health.
Dr. McAllister said he was in favor of passage of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health. "It would ease the mental health load in Nevada in having a representative of the Compact where repatriations to California or other States are involved. You would not basically change operations."

Mrs. Frazzini said she wanted to explain to Dr. McAllister why she had asked to have this bill put off until today. She said it was because she had not had time to study it and not because she had any opposition to it. She asked: "How many of our sister States have adoped the Interstate compact, specifically in the Western Region?"

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McAllister: "I know California is in the Western Region, Interstate Compact, and I think Colorado and Utah. There are about 37 of all of the States in the Interstate Compact. It operates on about a \$10,000 contingency fund."

Frazzini: "Is that sufficient - for those out-of-state patients?"

McAllister: "Yes, because we would not consider repatriation to any of the Eastern States, for instance. Most of our repatriations are from neighboring states. We had a case recently where we repatriated to Connecticut, at the patient's own expense".

Frazzini moved DO PASS A.B. 474. Seconded by Swallow. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 670 - Raises minimum amount of aid to dependent children.

Rosie Seals, President, A.D.C. Mother's Club, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mrs. Seals said she has 6 children, and receives a total of \$242 per month, out of which she pays \$63 house rent. She would like to see the checks raised where she can send her kids to school clothed like other kids, get milk like they should have, and not go to school hungry.

Mrs. Bessie L. Brooks, A.D.C. Mother's Club.

She said she has 7 children, ranging in age from 2½ years to 13 years. She also would like to see the monthly checks raised so that her children can get hot lunches at school and be clothed like other children. She said she paid \$150 per month rent.

Mr. Swallow asked if this wasn't quite a bit for a 2-bedroom apartment in Las Vegas. Mrs. Brooks said the reason the rent was so high was because of too many kids.

Dorothy F. Lee, Family Aide, Las Vegas, Nev.

She said she works under the Title I Program as a Family Aide in Las Vegas, which is something like a social worker. She said she has gone out and tried to find places for parents with any number of children to live. The places they could possibly get in for \$90 to \$95 per month will not accept families with more than 4 children. "The Housing Authority won't say so, but I have seen families get on the list with 4 or 5 children where next week they will have an apartment, but with 7 or 8 children, they may never get in."

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Mrs. Erma Fritchen, A.D.C. Mother's Club, Reno, Nev.

She said she pays \$120 per month rent. "They don't want to accept 5 children no matter where I went. So I decided to say I had 3 children instead of 5, and that is how I got in. When they found out about the other 2, they raised my rent \$5 per month per child."

Assemblyman Espinoza - Said that HUB states the rental is based on the amount of people per bedroom.

Chairman Wilson: "In other words, it is a Federal Regulation.

Espinoza: "More or less. It is two per bedroom. That is not a steadfast rule, because it depends on the ages and sex of the children."

Wilson: "According to that, if you have 4 boys, at least you could get away with 2 bedrooms - 1 for the boys and 1 for the adults."

Mrs. Seals asked what is allowed for each child. "A gentleman from here told me that you were giving us money the same as 10 years ago. How much are you allowing for each kid?"

She also wanted to know if when a child reaches a certain age, can he get a job without cutting his check?

Gloria Hanley-Social Worker, Nevada State Welfare Division.

She said \$31 per child is the present average grant. "At the present time, (in reply to the second question) these earnings would need to be taken into consideration in determining the amount of the grant. Some of the earnings will be changed."

Wilson: "Would you please go into detail as to what is being proposed as of July 1st?"

Mr. Robert Miller, State Welfare Director. The first \$30 plus 1/3rd of the rest would be disregarded (speaking of an employed child). "The 1st \$30 of the total family income, plus 1/3rd."

Mrs. Seals: "If my 17-year old daughter goes out and gets a job this summer, my \$250 would be taken away from us."

Mr. Miller: "For example, a child earns \$150. The first \$30 will not be counted. That would leave \$120. 1/3rd of the \$120 will be disregarded, which would be \$40 plus \$30 of the \$150 would be disregarded. That will leave out of the \$150 - \$80 to be deduced from the Welfare check of the Mother. In other words, the Mother will end up with \$70 more than if she hadn't worked."

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Mary Garrett - A.D.C. Mother's Club - She said they are not asking for just the black people, but for all poor people. When people go and ask for things, they ask for it because they need it.

Mrs. Fritchens said that \$93 is a standard amount it takes for each child to survive per month, and we are receiving \$31 per child. "I have a child who is 18, who is an honor student. He has just turned 18, and according to the Welfare law, he is supposed to quit school and go to work and take care of his family. I have 5 sons, and I think they are good kids, and I want to see them get an education. They cannot unless they have something in their bellies to eat and equal clothing with other kids to wear."

Margaret Turner, A.D.C., Las Vegas, said she is not only an A.D.C. Mother, but Grandmother as well. Her daughter died, and she is presently raising 6 grandchildren. She said during the time her daughter was ill and dying of a terminal illness, she could not get any compensation for the children - that was during a 4-year period.

Mr. Wilson asked her if all these children were from the same family, and she replied they were the children of her two daughters. She receives some money from Social Security benefits from the daughter who died, and now receives some compensation from the Welfare Division through the A.D.C. program.

She said sometimes they are so poor she cannot send the children to school because they do not have lunch money or proper shoes and clothing, and then the truant officer comes. She has had her utilities cut off numerous times because of inability to pay, and wondered if there is some way the legislators could work with the Public Utility companies in lowering costs of utilities for mothers and grandmothers raising children on State Aid?

Francis Edwards said he works with the poverty program. Said it is quite frustrating where you see ADC mothers in such dire need. He has carried some to get hair cuts, to buy shoes, especially those with small children. He said something should be done to help these mothers, because they are still people. They are definitely in dire need of monies to overcome some of their problems.

Mr. May asked Mr. Miller if he thought, on the average, the A.D.C. recipient is a direct result of promiscuity or loss of the provider in the family.

He replied that as a result of a study made in 1967, we believe the number of illegitimate children was somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 to 35%. The rest were almost exclusively the result of divorce, separation, or incapacity of the father to find work and provide for his family.

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Mr. May asked him if he could break it down to percentages?

Miller: "The majority would be divorce. This group, of all the people who apply for assistance, the A.D.C. Mothers, we find there is a very small amount of fraud. This is the most honest group of Welfare recipients in the State, the A.D.C. Mothers. You have heard it said that they have another child a year because it is profitable. You have heard today that it isn't so profitable - \$31 per child per month. This is the Number 1 group all the way around. This is not a moral situation in my opinion."

Eddie Scott, N.A.A.C.P., Reno, Nev.

Said he had been meeting with A.D.C. Mothers for months in Reno. One of the things here is the law governing the the domestic obstacles to persons getting off A.D.C. "I believe if the law were changed, if they were permitted to go to work. Our children are penalized. Remove these penalties. You have to make a lot of money before you really have made anything. You can take a Doctor and put him on A.D.C., and he will stay there the rest of his life. He is not allowed to make any money. You have killed all incentive to work. "

Dorothea Lee from Las Vegas said she has seen the same thing in Las Vegas. Mothers have gone to work. They can't even work a probationary period before the time their probation is up; they are off A.D.C. and they are layed off their jobs. It takes them another 6 weeks to get back on A.D.C. Mothers find plenty of jobs in the summer with Head Start but because they will be cut off, they aren't allowed to work. Regarding school absenteeism, she said the parents very often think the children are in school, but she finds them out wandering in the desert playing because they don't have decent clothes and the other children tease them.

Mr. Wilson asked what this proposed increase would mean to the State contributions toward A.D.C.

Mr. Miller said it is partially federally funded by \$20 and \$10. Using a figure of \$32. For every dollar you go up, it costs \$120,000 a month or 1,200,000. This is of State Dollars because the Federal Government doesn't participate.

Hafen: "For every dollar, you go up it costs you \$120,000? I thought it was based on the figures shown on the chart."

Miller: "Our estimated cost is \$116,440, so I used \$12,000. \$116,000 roughly per month estimated for next year. Of that, figuring a \$45 average payment, it would be \$23 State dollars and \$22 Federal dollars. The cost per year would be \$6,368,000 State and \$2,903,075"

Wilson: "For the first year, the total on the \$45 would be \$6,368,000 State dollars and \$2,903,075 State dollars, or approximately a cost of 3 million dollars to the State of Nevada." I wanted these figures in round numbers so that we would know

what the appropriation would be from State funds."

Bessie Brooks asked if her child, who was on the honor roll and under 16 years of age would be eligible to complete school and go on to college.

She also mentioned that a younger child could not participate in after school activities because, in order to have a free lunch at school every day, he had to work after school to pay for it.

Mr. Wilson told her that evidently someone had passed out the wrong information as far as a child being on the honor roll, if that meant whether or not he was eligible for A.D.C. benefits. He said "we are always happy to hear that a child is a good student, and is on the honor roll", but it does not mean a child has to be on the honor roll to be eligible for A.D.C.

A.B. 588 - Makes families with unemployed fathers eligible for aid to dependent children benefits.

Mrs. Seals she knew of homes where a father did not have sufficient education to hold a job, and said she would like to see this bill passed where fathers can stay with their families.

Mr. Miller said this also gives another person an opportunity to be trainable under their WIN program, if it passes.

Mr. Wilson asked him if he would recommend this piece of legislation, and Mr. Miller replied yes, it was their bill.

A.B. 482 - Permits payment of aid to dependent children living with both parents if wage-earning parent is continually unemployed.

Mr. Miller said they supported A.B. 588, which is actually the same bill as this one. "In other words," he said, "one or the other."

A.B. 481 - Raises age limit of dependent child. Dr. McAllister said this is Mr. Miller's bill. Mr. Miller replied that their bill was A.B. 477.

Mr. Miller said he would like to explain. "As some of the ladies bordered on a while ago, a 16-year old would like to go to work. The reason that we think 21 is better than 20, some of these children might have started school later than others, or been ill and missed a grade. As long as they want to go to school, we would like to see them continue."

Wilson: "You favor A.B. 477?"

Mrs. Frazzini said she liked 477. "It is about time we

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recognize that we should be taking care of these children".

Dr. Homer asked what is the estimated cost in dollars.

Mr. Miller replied, "very minimal, because we are talking about the actual grant. You could have other expenses. A child deprived could very well cost us \$600 or \$700 per month. We do not have many children in this category (of desiring to complete their schooling).

A.B. 467 - Authorizes vendor payments under old-age assistance program. Mr. Wilson said 516 and 467 do the same things.

Mr. Robert Cassidy said this was the bill that the operators had brought with them. He said he had met with the operators on Thursday night. "It is a problem in the Southern Nevada hospitals. It is difficult to get a Doctor when a resident of one of these nursing home facilities becomes ill, or to go to the hospital to admit them. The operators want a law from the Welfare Division to help get their patients into the hospitals. Especially mental patients. The way it is now, they have to have their problems when there is someone available to admit them.

Mr. May asked if it was the intent of the Chair to consider A.B. 516 at this time. Mr. Wilson replied, "No. We have had several bills today with the same intent and purpose. What I want to do is eliminate the ones that are duplications."

Mr. Cassidy said "actually, these are companion bills, rather than a substitute. A.B. 467 amends the old age assistance and A.B. 516 changes group care law to do the same thing. Both bills would probably be necessary."

A.B. 516 - Provides methods for making assistance payments to residents of group care facilities.

Mr. May said it was his intention in this bill to have a standby case worker available "and you certainly have enough case workers to have them on standby, on a rotation basis".

Cassidy: "I certainly think they would have to be compensated in some way."

Miller: "There are nights from 5:00 P.M. on also"(in addition to the weekends).

May: "Perhaps an answering service?"

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Cassidy suggested that the bill have some teeth put in it, and order the hospitals to accept these people. "We have got to get the Doctors to take these people seriously and accept them".

Wilson asked if A.B. 516 was part of the package presented by the Welfare. Foote replies that it was Paul May's bill.

Wilson: "The rest homes that have this problem - what are their responsibilities?"

Cassidy: "I share partly this feeling somewhat. This is what they are paid for. They could take them to the hospital and they do this, but the hospitals won't accept them. They are turned away, and even ordered by the hospital to take them back. One operator I know of took a patient to the hospital and left him there. About an hour later a taxi drove up bringing him back."

Wilson: "This bill wouldn't do it"

Cassidy: "That is why I suggested putting some teeth in it"(referred to Sec. 5.)

A.B. 467 - Authorizes vendor payments under old-age assistance program.

Cassidy

Regarding paying group care operators. At the present the checks are mailed to the patient, and he is obligated to make the payment to the group care facility. Some do pay, but in varying amounts. Some turn over their entire check; others pay in small amounts and have the rest of their check to go downtown and do whatever they want to.

We are recommending \$134 paid directly to the operators in all facilities.

A.B. 467 - (Frazzini)"Would provide that one check be made to the operator and one to the recipient. With reference to something I see here, presently we are making vendor payments only through Title 19? But if they get into a medical institution, it says they are accepted?"

Cassidy: "Yes, they are accepted".

S.B. 234 - Authorizes petty cash fund for welfare division.

Espinoza moved DO PASS. Swallow seconded.

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A.B. 670 - Swallow moved DO PASS and Re-refer to Ways and Means. Foote seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 588 - Frazzini moved DO PASS with re-referral to Ways and Means. Seconded by Espinoza. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 477 - and A.B. 481 Wilson suggested polling on Assembly Floor to see which one would be more favorably accepted.

A.B. 477 - Foote moved DO PASS with re-referral to Ways and Means. Frazzini seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 467 - Foote moved DO PASS. May seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 482 - Foote moved to indefinitely postpone. Frazzini seconded. Unanimously carried.

A.B. 481 - Foote moved to indefinitely postpone. Frazzini seconded. Unanimously carried.

Meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: Following figures were given to the Secretary by Mr. Orville Wahrenbrock, who stated that they would more closely reflect the costs involved in A.B. 670, as quoted by Mr. Miller.

For each additional dollar income given

1st year biennium	\$139,776
2d year biennium	163,440

To raise the average grant to \$45 would cost in State dollars, an additional

1st year biennium	1,817,078
2nd year biennium	<u>2,124,720</u>

Total additional State Dollars	\$3,941,798
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