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PEGGY CLARK TESTIMONY

BILL: SB 408 Supplemental Appropriation

RURAL CLINICS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

CONTACT: PEGGY CLARK, ASO II

DR. LARRY BUEL, PH.D., DIRECTOR

PHONE: 687-1000

Good morning Chairman Raggio and members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Peggy Clark, Administrative Services Officer for Rural Clinics Community Mental Health Centers. With me at the table is Dr. Larry Buel, Rural Clinics Director. We are here to support SB 408 which provides supplemental appropriations to Rural Clinics in order for our agency to continue to provide mental health services to approximately 3,000 persons at 16 clinics located across rural Nevada, including Severely Mentally Ill adults and Severely Emotionally Disturbed youth.

SB 408 requests \$613,557 in additional funding to Rural Clinics to offset a shortfall in the amount of outside revenue to be collected. Subsequent to the development of SB 408 we have determined our budgetary shortfall will actually be \$740,598. We request the funding amount be increased to \$740,598.

The funds requested would be utilized to offset a revenue shortfall in the amount of \$700,117. In addition, \$40,481 is being requested to ensure we are able to meet our contractual commitments to psychiatrists who provide critical medication clinic services at eight of our locations.

Rural Clinics will also be making cutbacks totaling \$60,267 in several areas of our budget to reduce the amount of the supplemental request as much as possible.

The possibility that revenue shortfalls might occur in the Division of Mental Health and Development Services budgets was acknowledged by the Nevada Legislature during the 2001 Legislative session. The Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means issued a letter of Intent stating that if the increased revenues to be collected and vacancy savings were not realized, the division should consider approaching the Interim Finance Committee for additional funds to meet those budget deficits so that services would not be reduced (copy attached).

We would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have.



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Nevada Legislature

August 1, 2001

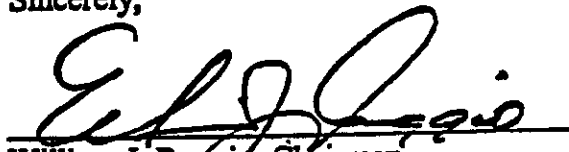
Carlos Brandenburg, Ph.D.
Administrator
Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services
505 East King Street
Carson City, NV 89701

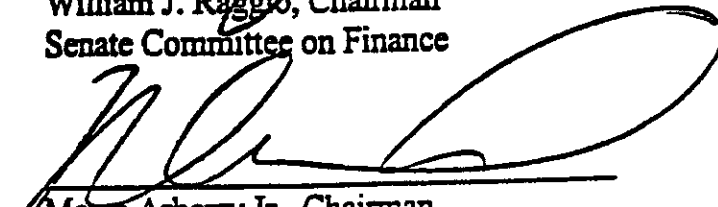
Dear Dr. Brandenburg:

In closing the budgets for the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means increased the revenues to be collected by the Mental Health and Developmental Services budgets and vacancy savings.

If the additional revenues or vacancy savings are not realized and the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services is unable to generate sufficient savings to offset the reduction in budgeted revenues and vacancy savings, the division should consider approaching the Interim Finance Committee for additional funds to meet those budget deficits so services are not reduced.

Sincerely,


William J. Raggio, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance


Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman
Assembly Committee on Ways & Means

cc: John P. Comeaux, Director, Department of Administration
Michael J. Willden, Director, Department of Human Resources