

EVOLUTION OF OREGON'S SOCIAL PROGRAMS

1849

POOR LAW

The Territorial Legislature enacted the law aimed at helping the lame, blind, sick and other persons who from age or infirmity were unable to support herself or himself. Probate courts were given the responsibility to carry out the law.

1851

Territorial prisons were established.

1854

POOR LAW AMENDED

Under the new law county commissioners were given the responsibility to help the bodily infirmed, the mentally retarded known as "idiots" and the mentally ill known as "lunacy", sick and non-residents.

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Special interest groups in the area of prisoners rights, the insane, children without parents and veterans began actively involving themselves in the legislative process.

1859

Statehood

1864

ADOPTION LAW

The law outlined who could be adopted, who was eligible, which courts had jurisdiction over adoption laws, who could consent, the procedures and the legal consequences. Essentially the law was unchanged for forty-three years and served as the basis for over seventy-five years.

1866

FIRST STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR POOR

The legislature passed an appropriation to help reimburse counties for non-residence, resident poor. Repealed in 1921.

1870

Oregon School for the Deaf established.

1872

CARE FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

\$3,000 was appropriated to the Oregon Children's Aid Society in Salem to help dependent and neglected youth. Lump appropriation system lasted from 1872 to 1901.

1872

Oregon School for the Blind established.

1889

STATE AID MONIES

\$5,000 was appropriated as financial aid to private care institutions to help wayward, delinquent or maternal cases. This was the first attempt by the legislature to give aid to children in this manner. Previous care had been to place children under twenty with adult offenders in penitentiaries and county jails.

1891

Woodburn's Boys School established.

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STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS

A six member board was created to study the state and county institutions. \$5,000 was appropriated for administrative expenses.

1893

Report to the legislature by the State Board of Charities and Corrections was so unpopular the Board was abolished.

1901

FIRST STATE AID TO PRIVATE CHILD CARING AGENCIES

The legislature appropriated on a per capita basis, \$50 per year for orphans or foundlings under fourteen years of age to help aid private caring agencies and institutions. This was based on the 1889 Law.

1903

Creation of Board of Health

1905

STATE INCREASES AID TO PRIVATE CARE AGENCIES

Girls twelve to eighteen get \$84 per year.

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County judges begin to certify fitness of private care institution program.

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JUVENILE COURT ACT

1907

STATE INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE-MINDED ESTABLISHED

(Later to be called "Fairview")

1913

Hillcrest School for Girls established.

1913

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL

A "brain-child" of Governor Oswald West, the State Board of Control administered nine institutions in the state.

CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION CREATED

Governor Oswald West ordered that a five-member Child Welfare Commission be created to discuss problems of children.

MOTHER'S PENSION BILL

The first attempt by the Oregon Legislature to give support to widows with children. This is to later be replaced by the A.D.C. Program.

1916

Portland developed a Home Placement Department in the Juvenile Court to help wayward children.

1918

THE RANCH

(Industrial farm for boys was established.)

CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION REPORT

The report known as the SLIENGERLAND REPORT outlined child welfare work in Oregon and recommended that foster homes be developed as a viable alternative to institutions. Also recommended modification of adoption laws.

1919

CHILD WELFARE LAW

Standards were set and licenses were provided to private agencies based upon suggestions of the Sliengerland Report. It also forbid private placement for adoptions.

JUVENILE COURT ACT

The Act provided for probation officers to help children.

1930

Child Welfare Commission was given staff of three.

1933

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ACT

State and county relief commissions were developed and cooperatively administered by federal unemployment programs.

Public Employment Service was created under the Wegner-Peyser Act.

1933

Vocational Rehabilitation Division established under the Department of Education.

1935

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Four of the nine areas of the Social Security Act pertained to children: 1) A.D.C., 2) maternal and child health, 3) crippled children's service, 4) child welfare.

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COUNTY AND STATE RELIEF COMMITTEES WERE ESTABLISHED

Legislature created a partnership with the counties to help pay not less than fifty percent of the relief to poor.

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STATE AND COUNTY RELIEF ACT AMENDED

Special legislative session in November 1935 added old age and blind assistance to the previous act. It also began state planning and control of public assistance programs in expenditures.

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Unemployment Insurance Law passed in a special session of the legislature.

1937

AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN PROGRAM

Following the advent of Title IV of the Social Security Act, the Oregon legislature provided state relief to children in single-parent households. The county relief committees were charged with administering the programs. 599 families and 1,330 children were the first to receive assistance from this program.

1938

CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S DIVISION ORGANIZED

Its purpose was to register all crippled children and provide care for children of low income families.

1939

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSION IS CREATED

The new Commission replaced the county relief committee, transferred all duties and powers of the Child Welfare Committee. The County Public Welfare Commission at their discretion, could accept custody of children, provide support, care and protective services for children who are handicapped by neglect, dependency, illegitimate birth, mental or physical disability.

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Certification of Commercial Boarding Homes for children under eighteen years of age.

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Parole Board established on a part-time basis.

1941

Certification of institutions by Public Welfare Commission extended to certification of foster homes irrespective of payment.

1949

RELATIVE RESPONSIBILITY ACT

The legislature passed a law requiring living relatives of any person to help provide support through a monthly contribution to the state.

1951

AID TO THE PERMANENTLY DISABLED

Public Welfare Commission's responsibilities were expanded to help the disabled by using state and federal dollars.

1953

FOSTER CARE

This was an act relating to the placement in foster homes of children who are committed to the juvenile training school. It permitted the Superintendent of the juvenile training school to enter into an agreement with persons or families for the placement of children. Supervision of the home was provided by school staff. The natural parents were required to make payment in keeping with their ability to pay.

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EXPANDED SERVICES FOR FAIRVIEW HOME

Through an amendment, Fairview would be used for the care and training of epileptics and mentally deficient as have been or may be committed. Children are to be educated as far as possible and the Superintendent is to be a physician. There was an act relating to the substitution of the term "feeble-minded" and "feeble mindedness" with the terms "mentally deficient" and "mental deficiency".

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GUARDIANSHIP LAW

The Oregon Laws 1947, Chapter 524, Section 19, was amended. The amendment related to the administration of guardianship estates and advised that every guardian shall manage the estate of his ward frugally and without waste.

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REGULATION OF GROUP CARE HOMES

The State Board of Health began to regulate group homes. These homes were for care, boarding, housing, training, for physically or mentally handicapped children under the age of eighteen. This covered any child-caring institution presently licensed by the state Welfare Commission, or any foster home under the direct supervision of such a child-caring institution

1953

REGULATION OF GROUP CARE HOMES continued

or agency. It prohibited a home from having both mentally and physically handicapped children simultaneously.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

There was an act relating to discrimination by places of public accommodation, resort or amusement, because of race, religion, color, or national origin, and provided remedies and penalties therefor.

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Fairview expands service establishment and operation of the out-parent patient service at the Oregon Fairview Home.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION

The education of handicapped children, including special services, special classes, special instruction, home instruction, special schools, and instruction in regular classes was developed.

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INTERMEDIATE CORRECTIONS FACILITIES

Legislature allowed establishment of intermediate prisons. There is a reference to planning and constructing, furnishing and equipping an intermediate correctional institution within Marion County.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INTERIM COMMITTEE

The 1953 Legislature, by Senate Joint Resolution, created an interim committee of five members of the Legislative Assembly to make a study of the functioning of public assistance laws, particularly regarding relative support and costs of medical hospitalization and nursing homes.

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CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S ACT

The act provided for the payment of medical/surgical/corrective services for crippled children and provided the appropriation of money therefor.

1959

State advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation created.

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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT CREATED

Legislature changed the name of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission to the Department of Employment Commissioner, and transferred all the duties of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission, thereby creating a Department of Employment.

1959

JUVENILE INTERSTATE COMPACT CREATED

The purpose was to have cooperative supervision of delinquent juveniles on probation or parole, returned from one state to another, who had absconded or escaped and the return from one state to another of non-delinquent juveniles who had run away from home, and additional measures for the protection of juveniles.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

It refers to compensation for the loss of any part of body which can be replaced to advantage with a prosthetic device or appliance.

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Workmen's Compensation benefits increased.

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The Legislative Assembly requested a continuing study of the Public Welfare program. The administration enforcement laws related to public welfare. Created an interim Public Welfare Study Committee of ten men.

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PLANNING FOR DAMMASCH STATE HOSPITAL BEGINS

This session also had an act relating to the planning, constructing, and equipping of the F.H. Dammasch State Hospital, appropriated money, under the supervision of the Oregon Board of Control.

1961

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION CREATED

The new division was placed under the Board of Control.

1962

ABUNDANT FOOD PROGRAM AND FOOD STAMPS

A county received either abundant food or food stamps but not both. The food was distributed to the counties out of the Department of General Services.

1964

Creation of Economic Opportunity Act.

1965

CORRECTIONS DIVISION CREATED

Placed under the Board of Control.

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MEDICAID

The State Legislature authorized Public Welfare Commission to implement Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This known as Medicaid provided medical care, doctors, dentists, drugs and hospitalization, nursing homes for those who could not care for themselves. This was implemented in 1966.

1965

Sheltered Workshops began.

1966

Work release begins in Oregon.

1968

PRISON RIOT

Following riot many progressive programs were established which has been the cornerstone for the corrections program today.

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PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT

County Public Welfare Commissions were abolished.

1969

EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING FOR CHILDREN

As part of the Social Security Act, later to be known as Medichcek, the State began to give early and periodic screening to some poor children.

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EMERGENCY SHELTERED CARE FOR CHILDREN

The State Public Welfare Commission purchased temporary shelter for children.

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BOARD OF CONTROL ABOLISHED

As part of Governor McCall's move to camatize state government, the Board of Control was abolished relinquishing its authority over the institutions in the State of Oregon, Mental Health and the Corrections Division. In its place an administrative assistant for the Governor was to coordinate the activities of all social services in Oregon.

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STATE PUBLIC WELFARE DIVISION CREATED

The State Public Welfare Division assumed all financial responsibility for welfare programs from counties.

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SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

Authority given to counties for expenditures of funds for sheltered workshops for the handicapped.

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W.I.N.

The state begins a very successful work incentive program which enabled welfare recipients to return to work.

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DAY CARE

State began small effort in providing day care services for working parent.

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CLASSROOMS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED DEVELOPED

Legislature authorized Mental Health Division to contract with school districts for T.M.R. classrooms and authorized provision of contract for diagnostic and evaluation services and counseling services to parents or guardians of mentally retarded persons.

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EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS EXTENDED

Benefits were extended to persons during periods of vocational training while in basic educational skill courses as a pre-requisite for such vocational training.

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ALBINA HUMAN RESOURCES CENTER

First state Multi Service Center was created by legislature.

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Juvenile Court Subsidy established under Corrections Division.

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Parole Board continued on a full-time basis beginning July 1

1971

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES CREATED

The Department of Human Resources has responsibility to coordinate and provide for programs for the delivery of public services through the Divisions of Public Assistance, Children and Family, Mental Health, Corrections, Employment, Vocational Rehabilitation, Economic Opportunity, Aging and other services as may be assigned to the Department. Jake Tanzer was the first Director.

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ADOPTION PROGRAM EXPANDED

Public Welfare Division authorizes payment for children placed for adoption by Public Welfare Division or placed in an approved child-caring agency, for special needs such as handicap or physical or mental condition, age, race, or membership in a sibling group.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATIONS HEARINGS CREATED

Regarding claims in Workmen's Compensation cases notifies the claimant that if they are dissatisfied with the determination of their case, they have a right to a hearing and review.

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Department of Human Resources budget - \$650 million per biennium.

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Juvenile Code Committee established.

1971

BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO YOUTH

Permitted any physician to provide birth control information and services regardless of age of person and to a minor fifteen years or older, who may give consent to hospital care, medical or surgical diagnosis or to a licensed physician or dentist. Permits hospital physician or dentist to keep confidential this treatment from parents.

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Family Planning in counties began.

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Institutional reimbursement transferred the responsibility for collecting the cost of care for a person in a state institution from the institutional services division of the Executive Department to the Department of Revenue. Refers to State mental hospitals, T.B. hospital, MacLaren School for Boys or Hillcrest School for Girls, foster care, Columbia Park Hospital and Training Center.

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CHILD ABUSE STATUTE STRENGTHENED

Improved reporting of physical injuries of children and held that any public or private official who had reasonable cause to believe that the child with whom he had come in contact had suffered abuse should report or cause a report to be made. Central registry was established and maintained by Children's Services Division and every law enforcement agency began forwarding copies of reports to that state registry.

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDS LAW

Permits purchase of care from institutions, foster family, adoptive services, care and consultation from the Director of the Department of Human Resources and is designed to strengthen family life and protect all children and to cooperate with public and private child-caring agencies in order to develop short-range and long-range priorities for the development of needed child care services. The law further states that such priorities would be reviewed periodically and revised as needed. Particularly emphasizes the need to encourage private child caring agencies to develop programs required to meet the needs of the children of the state, specifically the Director of the Department of Human Resources is to coordinate the activities of all state agencies having responsibility for the care of children to insure the best care possible and to avoid duplication. It further permits Children's Services Division to go outside the state for purchase of care for a child, if it is determined such care cannot be purchased inside the state.

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Juvenile admissions modified. All people between twelve and eighteen found to be within the court's jurisdiction and placed in custody of Children's Services Division may not be transferred to a penal or correctional institution.

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DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION

Authorizes Mental Health Division to establish a committee of persons who were addicted to narcotics or dangerous drugs and who have been rehabilitated. This committee will conduct drug abuse seminars in high schools and junior high schools in the state. Mental Health Division will provide all staff services and supervise the committee's activities. Members of the committee may be employed by the Division and may receive compensation for their services.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION CREATED

Administers laws and programs related to protective services to children, foster care, adoptions, interstate compact on juveniles, restorative services to families with children, licensing of child care facilities and day care centers. Mental Health program for children and youth employment. It amended ORS 109.125 and other appropriate legislation.

The program included not only previous responsibility of Public Welfare Division, but also youth services of the Corrections Division.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO AGED REDUCED

It modified the eligibility for receipt of medical assistance to state that any needy person over 65 would not be required to sell any real property normally used as a person's home as a condition of entering or remaining in hospital nursing home or other congregate care facilities.

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Day care program continues to grow rapidly.

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YOUTH RIGHTS

Placed the maximum period of institutionalization or commitment authorized for a person under twenty-one to not exceed the time he would have been committed as an adult.

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To stabilize funding to sheltered workshops the state began subsidy payments.

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Vocational Rehabilitation Division created under the Department of Human Resources.

1971

STANDARDS FOR FARM LABOR CAMPS

There must be cold running water under pressure which shall supply for all common use, handwashing needs, and laundry. There must be one toilet for each fifteen occupants and there must be ventilation and privacy. There must be adequate handcleaning facilities at places of employment where the crops are being harvested, including soap, etc. There must be adequate drinking water at all places of employment. It refers to conditions of sleeping places, the exclusion of entrance of ground or surface water. It refers to windows - size, frame construction. Sleeping places used during periods of cold weather will have adequate heating facilities installed and vented in a safe manner. The preceding were among those changes. Organization - State Health Division, to be implemented by the State Health Officer or his representative.

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Enacted by state legislature. Program relating to prison sentences. Amendment ORS 137.320. Time spent in custody by the defendant after his arrest and before his delivery to the Corrections Division shall be credited toward the terms of the sentence. Organization- Corrections Division.

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ALCOHOLISM BECOMES ILLNESS

Beginning of Alcoholism and Detoxification Program in Mental Health Division.

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HEALTH DIVISION CREATED

Old Board of Health was abolished. New Division combined the functions of the old Board of Health and the new assignment of Comprehensive Health Planning Authority.

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIVISION CREATED

Aging, Manpower, O.E.O. and the Multi Service Programs were administratively placed into one area creating the new division.

1972

Multi Service Centers expanded in Corvallis and Nyssa.

1973

The major trend in the legislation for 1973 with regard to Human Resources appeared to be the strengthening of programs designed to deal with human problems in the local community, rather than in centralized state institutions. This included programs in Mental Health and Corrections.

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C.E.T.A. Law to help alleviate unemployment and provide training went into effect December 28.

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Creation of Manpower under Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

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TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

Allows juvenile courts in extreme cases of child abuse to terminate parental rights.

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Transfer \$2.5 million annually from Education to Children's Services Division and allows the latter to administer all educational programs in child care agencies.

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Deletes all arbitrary restrictions on occupational licensing and certification of ex-offenders.

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JAIL STANDARDS

Establishes statewide standards for facilities operation and programs of city and county jails and lockups.

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EXPAND ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Will provide coverage on a mandatory basis to some 80,000 workers in local government and school districts.

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Deletes from current law the disqualification imposed against the individual who left work because of pregnancy.

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HEALTH COMMISSION

Abolishes the State Board of Health, Comprehensive Health Planning Authority, creating a Health Commission.

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Law passed strengthening regulations over nursing homes.

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Passed law requiring immunization of children against diphtheria, polio, whooping cough, measles, and rubella before entering school.

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCY EDUCATION

Provides \$250,000 for implementation projects in primary prevention of alcoholism and drug dependency.

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DETOXIFICATION CENTER IS EXPENDED

Clarifies the administrative procedures for community alcohol and drug programs, and provides funds for 120 alcoholism detoxification beds and 267 alcoholism halfway house beds on a 50/50 state-local match basis.

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PUBLIC WELFARE DIVISION RECEIVES 25 PERCENT INCREASE ON BUDGET

The major points of improvement were: improved standards for all welfare recipients; state-administered supplementation for the new Social Security program beginning January 1, 1974; improved medical care for welfare recipients through increased payment fees for physicians, dental care, and nursing homes. Funds have been allocated

1973

PUBLIC WELFARE DIVISION BUDGET INCREASE continued

for payment to County Health Department Family Planning Clinics to provide services to welfare recipients. Funds have been provided for the first time for preventive health programs for children on public assistance.

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JOB RIGHTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Guarentees the rights of physically and mentally handicapped persons to gainful employment, places of public accommodation and to housing of their choice without discrimination.

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COURT ASSISTANCE TO DEAF

Requires that the deaf, physically hearing impaired or physically speaking impaired individuals have qualified interpreters available when the handicapped person is a witness or party to a suit, action or administrative proceeding of a judicial or quasi-judicial nature.

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Architectural Barrier Law expanded to include private buildings which are used by the public. Allows for tax break for modifications.

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Allows a severely disabled person to receive a double personal income tax deduction.

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Law to govern homes for aged.

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W.I.C. PROGRAM

Passed requiring testing of pregnant women for toxoplasmosis, a disease which causes mental retardation in infants.

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MAJOR CHANGES IN MENTAL HEALTH

ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION CREATED

Authorizes a commission to contract with counties and provide 100 percent of the funding for defined alternatives to state hospitalization for Mental Emotionally Disturbed, Mentally Retarded/Developmentally Disabled, and Alcohol and Drug. This measure also redesignates community mental health clinics as community mental health programs and redefines the basic services these programs provide as part of a comprehensive community mental health program.

Program provides mentally ill persons be committed to a Division rather than to a specific state hospital, thereby permitting treatment in community facilities.

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MAJOR CHANGES IN MENTAL HEALTH Continued

ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION CREATED Continued

Program declares drug dependency an illness. It provides a broad framework for the statewide development of diagnostic treatment services for drug dependent services regardless of the specific drug abused.

This measure also provides incentives for early diagnosis and treatment of drug dependent persons and includes alternatives to prosecution and incarceration for drug dependent persons who have been apprehended or convicted of criminal offenses.

Entitles mentally deficient persons to admission to Division facilities for day and night care, respite care, crisis intervention and part-time care.

Permits voluntary admission to Division residential facilities of mentally deficient persons over 21 years of age. Up until now, adults have been admitted only through court commitment.

Insures confidentiality of patient treatment records at state-operated, non-hospital programs and community mental health programs, as well as at hospitals.

Defines procedures for the evaluation and treatment by the Mental Health Division of alcoholics convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or other criminal offenses.

CIVIL RIGHTS TO SEX OFFENDERS

Guarantees civil rights to persons alleged to be sexually dangerous, lowers age for voluntary admission to treatment without parental consent, and modifies discharge procedures for committed sexually dangerous persons to permit trial visits.

New Director appointed.

Mental Health Division began state funded programs to help develop activity centers.

Supplemental Security Income began in January.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES CENTRAL ESTABLISHED

Seeking more tools to operate the large agency, Tanzer persuaded the legislature to approve the creation of a central staff to provide computer assistance, common housing, personnel, fiscal services.

DHR biennium budget - \$900 million.

1975

DHR biennium budget - \$1.2 billion

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON AGING

\$1 million was set aside to find alternative care to reduce premature institutionalization for the elderly.

Relative Responsibility Law eliminated.

MULTNOMAH MEDICALLY NEEDY PROJECT

The Medicaid Law was amended to permit Public Welfare to obtain federal waiver to create an areawide rather than statewide Medically Needy Program in the Multnomah County area.

CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT PROGRAM

One of the most people-sensitive pieces of legislation requires the processing of all support and alimony payments through the Public Welfare Division of the Department of Human Resources. The intent of the bill was to insure continued financial stability to families after a divorce.

TAX RELIEF TO ADC RECIPIENTS

Authorizes renter tax relief to be included in ADC payments . . . increase shelter allowance for renting ADC families.

Status offenders can no longer be detained in juvenile facilities.

Parole Board expanded to five members.

Civil Death Law repealed for inmates allowing them to enter into contracts.

Parole Board required to personally interview inmate at least once every two years. Reduces inmate anxiety and expands Parole Board understanding.

INMATE LOAN FUND EXPANDED

Work release loans were expanded from \$12,000 to \$20,000, allowing more people to participate in the loan program.

COMMISSION ON INDIAN SERVICES

Established 10-member Commission on Indian Services appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Composed of 2 legislators and 8 Indians.

Students in juvenile training schools were no longer allowed to be transferred to the Oregon Correctional Institute.

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\$200,000 expended to remodel psychiatric security facilities at Oregon State Hospital as a result of a large population increase.

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CHILDREN'S REPORT

Children's Services Division is required to report the 59 Legislative Assembly study on juvenile delinquency and modified standards for approval of child caring organizations. There are all sorts of prescribed forms of priorities in developing child care services.

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICE ACCOUNT

Legislature created a fund in the State Treasury which allowed liquor taxes to be used to help fund local drug and alcohol de-tox centers.

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Health Division given special authority to help safeguard public against radiation.

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GENERIC DRUG BILL

Permits pharmacist to substitute generic drugs for prescribed drugs.

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CHILD LABOR LAW

Measure allows individuals who are less than 12 years of age to pick berries and beans in Oregon under specified conditions. The Administrator of the Employment Division certifies there are not sufficient workers available in the immediate area without their help.

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INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT LAW REVAMPED

Bill modifies provision relating to the involuntary commitment of mentally ill persons and limits the time of detention in various emergency procedures to three judicial days. It provides for a hearing procedure for mentally ill persons returning from trial visit status and expands the rights of the individual while protecting and reducing the costs on the counties.

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SENATE BILL 951

Major attempt to reorganize the Department of Human Resources, giving it more authority to tackle human service problems. Senate Bill 951 failed in the closing days of the session.