

AGENDA

CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PANEL

UTAH LEGISLATURE

Thursday, September 19, 2013 • 9:00 a.m. • Room 450 State Capitol

Approximate
Time Frame

- 9:00** **1. Oversight Panel Business**
- Call to order
 - Approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2012, meeting
- 9:05** **2. Overview of Panel Purposes and Duties**
The panel will be briefed on the history of the panel, its purposes, and duties.
- Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
- 9:20** **3. Review of 2013 Child Welfare Legislation**
The panel will review child welfare legislation considered during the 2013 General Session of the Legislature.
- Ms. Lee Killian, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
 - Panel discussion/action
- 9:30** **4. Children in Foster Care**
The panel will listen to observations and recommendations about Utah's foster care system from teenagers who have been in the foster care system.
- Invited teenagers in foster care
 - Panel discussion/action
- 10:10** **5. Legislative Audit**
In February 2013, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General released "A Performance Audit of Utah's Child Welfare System." Related language in 2013 S.B. 255, "Human Services Amendments," requires the Division of Child and Family Services to report on the following issues:
- "(a) the division's efforts to use existing staff and funds while shifting resources away from foster care and to in-home services;*
 - (b) a proposal to:*
 - (i) keep sibling groups together, as much as possible; and*
 - (ii) provide necessary services to available structured foster families to avoid sending foster children to proctor homes;*

- (c) *the disparity between foster care payments and adoption subsidies, and whether an adjustment to those rates could result in savings to the state; and*
- (d) *the utilization of guardianship, in the event an appropriate adoptive placement is not available after a termination of parental rights." (Utah Code Subsection 62A-4a-401(2))*

The panel will review the audit and receive a report from DCFS on its response. The panel's consideration of the audit will include a discussion of "whether statewide practice standards should be implemented to assist the Child Welfare Parental Defense Program with its mission to provide legal services to indigent parents whose children are in the custody of the division." (Utah Code Subsection 62A-4a-401(3)).

- Office of the Legislative Auditor General
- Division of Child and Family Services
- Department of Administrative Services (Child Welfare Parental Defense Program)
- Other child welfare system stakeholders (including parents and those not involved with the system)
- Committee discussion/action

11:30 6. Child Welfare Parental Defense Program Annual Report

- Department of Administrative Services
- Public comment
- Panel discussion/action

11:45 7. Distribution of Reports for Consideration at the Panel's October Meeting

Child Fatality Reviews—The panel will receive copies of child fatality reviews (protected records not for public distribution) for the past year and the Office of Services Review's annual summary of the reviews. In-depth discussion of the fatality reviews is scheduled for the panel's October meeting.

Child Welfare Outcomes and Compliance with Statutory Requirements—The panel will receive copies of the Office of Services Review's annual qualitative case review and annual case process review. In-depth discussion of the two reviews is scheduled for the panel's October meeting.

- Panel discussion/action

11:55 8. Schedule and Plans for Future Meetings

- Panel discussion/action

12:00 9. Adjourn