

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**

April 19, 2000 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 414 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Robert M. Muhlestein, CoChair
Rep. Michael R. Styler, CoChair
Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Sen. Parley G. Hellewell
Sen. Lorin V. Jones
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Ron Biglow
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Neil A. Hansen
Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Rep. David L. Zolman

Members Excused:

Rep. Rebecca Lockhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Lloyd W. Frandsen

Staff Present:

Arthur L. Hunsaker,
Research Analyst
Keith M. Woodwell,
Associate General Counsel
Audrey Wendel,
Legislative Secretary

Note: Names of others present and copies of information distributed at the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order and Approval of November 17, 1999 Minutes - Chair Styler called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Hansen moved to approve the November 17, 1999 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Staff Report: Workforce Services - Related Legislation, 2000 General Session - Mr. Keith Woodwell, Associate General Counsel, distributed a handout titled, "Bills Passed in the 2000 General Session Relating to the Workforce Services Interim Committee," from which he made his presentation.

3. Update: Implementation of Child Care Audit Recommendations - Mr. Robert Gross, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services, introduced Virginia Smith, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services, and Cathie Pappas, Child Care Program Specialist, Department of Workforce Services.

Ms. Pappas distributed a handout titled, "Payment-to-Parents Program Update April 19, 2000," from which she made her presentation. She reported on the department's efforts to improve the program, including ensuring timely payment to providers, simplifying the processes and policy, protecting taxpayer investment by ensuring that the program funds are spent on child care, and ensuring the safety of children. Ms. Pappas also informed the committee that the

department intends to use two-party checks as part of the program, beginning as soon as October 2000.

Ms. Virginia Smith discussed the department's intention to address the intent language in H.B. 1, "Supplemental Appropriations Act", expressing the intent of the Legislature that the department provide future updates to the committee regarding both the Payment-to-Parents Program and the Child Care Development Fund.

4. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Funds: State Distribution and Expenditure Strategies - Mr. Werner Haidenthaller, Department of Workforce Services, distributed a handout titled, "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Expenditure Parameters," from which he made his presentation. He discussed the purposes of the TANF program and how TANF funds are distributed and expended.

The department discussed issues relating to the sunset of the TANF program after the 2002 Federal Fiscal year. Federal Funding to the department may decrease substantially beginning in Fiscal year 2003. There are currently additional Federal TANF dollars which could be spent on one-time programs, but after TANF sunsets there could be a significant budget shortfall for on-going programs currently funded with TANF grants. The department agreed to provide further information regarding this issue throughout the interim.

Rep. Ferry requested that the department return to the next meeting and report the percentage of families continuing to receive TANF funds beyond the three-year time limit. Mr. Gross said it is approximately 10% to 11% of the allotted 20% benefit extension limit, but agreed to return to the next meeting with more accurate figures.

Mr. Haidenthaller reported that a study is being conducted by the department and the University of Utah. This study is researching the impact on those families who have left the TANF program. Although this will be an ongoing study, the department agreed to report on their progress at the end of this year.

5. Interim Study Issue Selection - Mr. Hunsaker distributed a handout titled, "Interim Study Issue Selection," and encouraged the committee to have their prioritized lists filled out and returned to him no later than Friday, April 28.

Ms. Gina Cornia, Utah Issues, distributed a handout titled, "FACT SHEET Individual Development Accounts (IDA's)," and encouraged the committee to consider studying this issue, which is item #22 in S.J.R., "Master Study Resolution."

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6. Committee Business - Chair Styler encouraged committee members to return interim study requests to staff.

7. Adjourn - Rep. Zolman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

