

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**

April 18, 2001 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 223 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Beverly Ann Evans
Senate Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Paula F. Julander
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Cindy Beshear
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
Rep. Carl R. Saunders
Rep. Peggy Wallace
Rep. Bradley A. Winn

Members Excused:

Rep. Richard M. Siddoway
House Chair

Members Absent:

Sen. Al Mansell
Sen. L. Steven Poulton
Rep. Martin R. Stephens

Staff Present:

Mr. J. Wayne Lewis,
Research Analyst
Mr. Keith M. Woodwell,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. 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

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Goodfellow moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander absent for the vote.

2. Review of Statutory Objectives for Workforce Services

Mr. J. Wayne Lewis, Research Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, discussed the Utah Technology and Small Business Finance Act, (Title 9 Chapter 13) which is scheduled for repeal on July 1, 2002. He proposed that the agency responsible for this Act in Title 9 be invited to appear before the committee to discuss and justify its re-adoption.

MOTION: Rep. Saunders moved to schedule the “Utah Technology and Small Business Finance Act” as the first item on the agenda for the May meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander absent for the vote.

Mr. Robert Gross, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services, briefly introduced several members of the senior management staff, Mr. Randy Emery, Chair, State Workforce Investment Board; Ms. Elyce Mouskondis, Chair, Child Care Advisory Committee; Ms. Mickey Adams-Grames Chair, Central Regional Investment Board; Ms. Virginia Smith, Deputy Director; Mr. Greg Gardner, Deputy Director; Mr. Werner Haidenthaller, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Darin Brush, Director, Customer Service; Ms. Sarah Brenna, Policy Analyst; Mr. Harold Hess, North Regional Director; Mr. Steve Maas, Central Regional Director; Ms. Rosemarie Carter, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Connie Laws, Director, Information Technology; Mr. Mike Richardson, Director, Service Delivery Support; and Ms. Lynette Rasmussen, Director, Office of Childcare.

Mr. Gross explained that the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) was created by legislation in 1996, and became a department of state government in July of 1997, making it the newest state agency. He briefly described the departments that merged to create Workforce Services including the Department of Employment Security, the Office of Family Support, the Turning Point Program, the Office of Job Training, and the Office of Child Care. He mentioned that the previously distributed copies of the brochure, "State of Utah Department of Workforce Services" discusses the creation and general operations of Workforce Services in greater depth and encouraged committee members to review that publication.

Mr. Gross suggested several issues be discussed during the 2001 Interim, including: "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" (TANF), eligibility standards, and food stamp accuracy. The department is currently working to improve the structure of eligibility systems and is training its employees to work with measured outcomes.

Rep. Saunders asked Mr. Gross what specific issues he felt are in need of legislative review. He said the food stamp program needs to be discussed further since it is not functioning in conformity with national congressional guidelines.

Rep. Sheryl Allen asked which sectors of the economy have had the greatest job growth. Mr. Gross said the service sector is continuing to grow at a faster rate than any other.

3. Review of Statutory Objectives for Community and Economic Development

Mr. David Winder, Executive Director, Department of Community and Economic Development distributed materials describing the divisions within the department. He introduced the committee to each division and invited the directors to briefly introduce themselves and their agencies. He said the department has high citizen participation and works with 30 separate boards.

Mr. Rod Linton, Deputy Director, Silicon Valley Alliance, distributed a handout, "Utah Silicon Valley Alliance" and discussed a potential growth plan for the computer industry in rural Utah.

Mr. Dean Reeder, Division Director, Utah Travel, distributed a handout, "Division of Travel Development." He introduced and discussed its two-fold mission of 1) concern with quality of life and 2) economic growth for the state by developing Utah travel as a destination model.

Ms. Bonnie Stephens, Director, Fine Arts, distributed two handouts, "Utah Arts Council" and "Culture Works for Utah," and introduced its mission statement, goals, and priorities. She believes that fine arts can be an important part of tourism and is a good fit with economic development.

Mr. Max Evans, Director, Utah State History, distributed a handout, "Utah Division of State History," and introduced its mission, goals, and priorities of preserving and sharing the Utah past.

Ms. Amy Owen, Director, Utah State Library Division, distributed a handout, "Utah State Library Division," and introduced its purpose and various library and informational programs to assist citizens of the state.

Mr. Ben Oliver, Coordinator, Utah Community Development, introduced its mission, and goals, and said the division is a loose affiliation of related programs that emphasizes orderly growth and economic development.

Mr. Forrest Cuch, Division Director, Utah Division of Indian Affairs, distributed two handouts, "Utah Division of Indian Affairs Overview" and "Utah Division of Indian Affairs, Utah Counties and Indian Reservations," and discussed its background and responsibilities. He said the division began in 1953 and is one of the oldest in the department and coordinates eight tribal governments with the Office of the Governor.

4. Committee Discussion Regarding 2001 Interim

MOTION: Rep. Wallace moved that the committee discuss Master Study Resolution # 214, "Diversity in the Workforce" only after all other study resolutions have been discussed, or if the 2001 interim expires, make it a priority for the 2002 Interim. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander, Rep. Philpot, Rep. Goodfellow, and Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Saunders moved to approve the proposed issues of the Master Study Resolution as study items for the 2001 Interim. The second part of the motion included hearing the eligibility system issues in workforce services, food stamp accuracy, and developing tourism by building on the publicity of the Olympics. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander, Rep. Philpot, Rep. Goodfellow, and Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Beshear moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Alexander, Rep. Philpot, Rep. Goodfellow, and Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.