

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 23, 2001 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 416 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Carl R. Saunders, House Chair
Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Patrice Arent
Rep. Trisha S. Beck
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Bryan Holladay
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Jack A. Seitz
Rep. Mike Thompson

Members Excused:

Sen. Terry R. Spencer, Senate Chair

Members Absent:

Rep. Wayne Harper
Rep. Glenn L. Way

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews
Research Analyst
Mr. Paul W. Hess
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Cathy J. Dupont
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Sandra Wissa
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order and Approval of April 18, 2001 Minutes

Chair Saunders called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and welcomed the members of the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Holladay moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Thompson absent for the vote.

2. Update on Subcommittees

Chair Saunders updated the committee on the status of the subcommittees and indicated that the first meeting dates would be as follow: Tobacco Subcommittee, June 6 at 1:00 p.m.; and Physical Fitness and Nutrition Subcommittee, June 15 at 9:00 a.m. He asked that the committee members notify Mark Andrews or Paul Hess with any additional agenda items for the Physical Fitness and Nutrition Subcommittee.

3. Study of Mandatory Obligations on Health Insurers

Mr. Andrews reviewed a handout, "Review of Health Insurance Provisions by the Health and Human Services Interim Committee." He stated 2000 General Session H.B. 228 requires that this committee study mandatory obligations imposed by state statute on health insurers regarding coverage, benefits, and providers. Mr. Andrews noted that the first deadline for this study will be

in 2005 and that the committee will then be required to review each new mandatory obligation in its fifth year after passage.

Mr. Andrews stated that the Legislative Management Committee would determine which statutes would be studied by this committee or by the Business and Labor Interim Committee. He indicated that even though the deadline for this is 2005, there are 25 or more provisions that should be reviewed.

Rep. Lockhart said that she believes that the committee should get started this interim and possibly establish a schedule to prevent leaving the study to the last year. She also stated that the chairs of the Business and Labor Interim Committee should get a copy of the list of provisions to review and possibly decide on items to study in that committee.

Chair Saunders asked the committee to review the provisions and inform him if there are some that they think should be on future agenda.

4. Emergency Medical Services

Ms. Dupont reviewed a handout, "Utah Emergency Medical Services System Act, Title 26, Chapter 8a." She noted that the following provisions were relevant for consideration: need to regulate the market, geographic marked divisions, renewal, and annexation. Ms Dupont answered questions from committee members.

Rep. Peggy Wallace handed out and presented draft legislation, "Provision for Emergency Medical Services," which allows a city that is currently licensed to provide emergency medical services and intends to annex a geographic service area, to include licensing of emergency medical services for the area in the annexation process. She stated that currently licensing studies are performed after an annexation has been completed, thus extending the time for license approval. Rep. Wallace also reviewed a handout, "Municipality certifies ability to provide service to the annexed area." Rep. Wallace answered questions from committee members.

Mr. Gene Moffitt, President, Gold Cross Ambulance, handed out and reviewed "Statement of Gold Cross Services, Inc. Concerning Amending Utah Code Ann. §26-8a-414 (Annexation of Ambulance and Paramedic Service Areas)." He stated that he believes that there is not a compelling reason to make the proposed changes.

Mr. David Spatafore, Utah League of Cities and Towns, stated the League's legislative committee has not had a chance to look at the draft legislation. Therefore, the League does not have a position on the bill.

Dr. Scott Williams, Deputy Director, Department of Health, reviewed two handouts, "EMS System Act Revision Fact Sheet" and "Agencies that Participated in the EMS Act Revision Process." He stated that the Department of Health will support this legislation only if it means the quality of service to the residents does not decrease.

Mr. Jake Nielson, Chief, West Jordan Fire Department, stated there was evident frustration with the licensing process by the citizens in the annexation of a geographic area into West Jordan because it took so long after the annexation for the city to beginning providing EMS services to the annexed area.

Mr. Jay Magure, President of Local 1645, Professional Fire Fighters of Salt Lake City Corporation, stated he believes that the most important thing is using the closest service providers regardless of the source, private or public, for the citizens. He asked that the committee move slowly and look closely at the draft legislation.

Rep. Wallace expressed a desire to work during the summer with interested parties and bring finalized legislation to the committee in the fall.

5. Long-Term Professional Development Programs for Disability Services

Rep. Hogue presented draft legislation, "Appropriation for Long-Term Professional Development Programs for Disability Services." He handed out "Long-Term Interagency Training for Disability Service Providers." Rep. Hogue explained that this bill would allow appropriations to be given to the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University so that they could disperse it as needed to help train service providers for the disabled.

Ms. Cathy Chambless, Department of Health, stated that training is needed for para-professionals working as supported employment job coaches, interpreters for the deaf, and behavior specialists because training is essential for them to provide these services. She noted that this bill would allow money to be appropriated for training purposes only and given to a central location, Utah State University. Then through a competitive bidding process, the university would award funds to the entity that could best provide the training. She explained that when money is normally appropriated for the providers of services such as the Division of Services for People with Disabilities, the money goes directly to services and is not used for training. Ms. Chambless answered questions from committee members.

Dr. Marve Fifield, formerly with Utah State University, explained that in 1996 through the Center for People with Disabilities, he helped to set up the Interagency Outreach Training Initiative (IOTI), which was funded by the legislature in response to a funding request almost identical to the one that led to this bill, except that it addressed a different training need. He stated that this is an interagency request, that the training is required by law, and that this is a

long-term training program. He spoke about how the need for this training is ongoing due to high turnover. Dr. Fifield noted that an organization has already been set up in the IOTI. He answered questions about federal funding, noting that periodically there are short-term funds available in this area. He also handed out "Concerning the Special Appropriation Request for Long-Term Interagency Training for State Disability Agencies" which should answer some of the questions that people will have.

Dr. Sue Geary, Director, Division of Services for People with Disabilities, stated she serves on the Coordinating Council for People with Disabilities, an interagency group of seven agency directors and the director of the Utah Parent's Center. She explained that each agency has some common training areas and that there would be efficiency gained by coordinating that training. Dr. Geary discussed how funding for this type of training must be requested currently. Each of the seven agencies must submit requests for funding independently, but approval of all requests is not likely. She indicated that consideration has been given to having one agency request all of the training funds, but that would mean other needs of that agency would have to be overlooked.

Mr. Mitch Jensen, Director of Interpreter Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, explained this is a very important issue because many deaf people are going without an interpreter due to the lack of trained interpreters.

Ms. Kathy Daley, Rehabilitation Specialist and Employer Specialist, State Office of Rehabilitation, discussed how important this program is in training people to help disabled persons gain employment.

Mr. Jerry Costley, the ARC of Utah, discussed the cost effectiveness of training.

Ms. Sue Behle, Turn Community Services, explained how her organization trains people on behavioral techniques and spoke on the effectiveness of training parents. She stated she supports using Utah State University to allocate funds and has found that its process is effective and efficient.

Ms. Sarah Rurl, Director, Center of Persons with Disabilities, answered questions from the committee members.

Ms. Jan Ferre, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, explained that the training addressed by the bill will benefit people who receive only small amounts of training as well as those who receive large amounts of training through universities.

6. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Lockhart absent for the vote.

