

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

October 24, 2001 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 223 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Beverly A. Evans, Senate Chair
Rep. Richard M. Siddoway, House Chair
Sen. Scott Jenkins
Sen. Paula Julander
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Cindy Beshear
Rep. Carl Duckworth
Rep. Ty McCartney
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Carl R. Saunders
Rep. Peggy Wallace
Rep. Bradley A. Winn

Members Absent:

President Al Mansell
Sen. Steve Poulton
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Brent Goodfellow
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
Speaker Martin R. Stephens

Staff Present:

Ms. Jami Momberger, Research Analyst
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Jennifer Markham, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. The Chair announced that Rep. Ty McCartney will replace Rep. David Litvack on the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2001. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Newbold absent for the vote.

2. Tourism Amendments

Mr. James Wilson, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Council, provided a summary of the draft legislation "Tourism Amendments." A copy of the draft was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting.

Mr. Dean Reeder, Director, Utah Travel Council, suggested on line 34 to delete the term "Tourism Marketing Performance Committee" and substitute "Division of Travel Development" for "Department of Community and Economic Development. He recommended on line 37 to delete the words "Utah travel regions." He suggested on lines 44 and 45 to delete the word "nine." He recommended on line 41 that the legislative committee name that received the annual report not be included in the legislation. He distributed a booklet, "2001 State and County Economic & Travel Indicator Profiles."

Mr. Alan Dayton, Deputy Mayor, Salt Lake County, provided a history of previous legislative discussions and the TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention Facilities Tax) fund. He emphasized that Salt Lake County relies heavily on the TRCC funds to build facilities. He expressed concern that this legislation will redirect that money to tourism promotion.

Mr. Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties, expressed concern on the requirement to spend two-thirds of the TRCC revenues on tourism promotion. He indicated that local officials should make the decisions on how to use the TRCC revenues. He expressed concern with the State controlling the TRCC and TRT (Transient Room Tax) county revenue.

Ms. Ann Gambrino, Director, Utah Hotel and Lodging Association, stated that the original half percent TRCC tax was originally designated for the Salt Palace bond. She discussed an agreement with the hotels that TRCC tax was to be used specifically on the bond for Salt Palace. She stated that the hotels have not been notified about the proposed legislation.

Committee discussion followed.

3. Department of Workforce Services

Ms. Virginia Smith, Deputy Director, DWS (Department of Workforce Services), provided an update on the food stamp audit and distributed "Forecast: FS Payment Accuracy Cumulative Trend 6/00-6/01." She described the procedures that have been implemented to prevent errors. Ms. Smith also summarized the child care audit and distributed "Child Care Audit, September 2001."

Ms. Karen Silver, Advocate, Salt Lake Community Action Program, suggested DWS survey parents using the two-party check and subsidy. She suggested further review of several items in the report.

Ms. Joyce Hastings, Milestone Learning Center, expressed concern that the case workers knew the timing of the audit. She stated that checks were received on time during the period of the audit; however, numerous problems have occurred since the audit. She stressed the importance of DWS providing information on the client's eligibility to the child care provider.

Mr. Johnny Anderson, President, Utah Private Child Care Association, discussed the importance of the department working closer with child care providers and providing a list to providers of the families using them each month. He stressed the importance of providers receiving timely payments.

Ms. Gina Cornia, Utah Against Hunger, discussed the issue of client and provider fraud. She emphasized that overpayments are repaid by the recipients.

Ms. Kathy Carr, a Wasatch County child care provider, expressed concerns about the inability to reach DWS staff to have questions answered.

Ms. Smith responded to some of the concerns raised by the public.

Committee discussion followed.

Ms. Sarah Brenna, Policy Analyst, Department of Workforce Services, reviewed the child care amendment proposals. She distributed "Department of Workforce Services Proposed Technical Amendments 2002" and draft legislation, "Workforce Services Amendments."

MOTION: Rep. Beshear moved to approve the technical changes to the amendments. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Siddoway, Rep. McCartney, and Rep. Winn absent for the vote.

Ms. Smith reviewed "Financial Information Privacy Proposed Amendments" and distributed a copy to committee members.

MOTION: Rep. Beshear moved to include the financial information privacy proposed amendments in the proposed draft legislation "Workforce Services Amendments."

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to delay approval of the financial information privacy proposed amendment until next month and create a separate piece of legislation. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Siddoway, Rep. McCartney, and Rep. Winn absent for the vote.

4. Child Care Amendments

Mr. Wilson reviewed the proposed child care amendments. A copy of the draft legislation was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting.

Ms. Lynette Rasmussen, Director, Office of Child Care, provided clarification for two parent households meeting the criteria for State assistance.

Committee discussion followed.

Ms. Rasmussen expressed support for the increased membership of the Advisory Committee . She recommended the following: (1) including a representative from each of the five individual child care associations, (2) allowing the child resource representative to have a vote, (3) keeping the small business representatives at two, and (4) a stipulation on the number of members.

Mr. Gross expressed support for the Advisory Council's recommendation.

Ms. Rasmussen recommended amending line 149 to delete the words "Head Start Collaboration Project coordinator" and insert the words "the Head Start Association."

Ms. Carr emphasized the need to have the associations represent the children.

Ms. Silver suggested leaving the language "Head Start Collaboration Project Coordinator."

Ms. Janna Forsgren, Director, Utah Head Start Collaboration, recommended representation from the Head Start Association because its members are more familiar with the issues.

5. Other Committee Business/Adjourn

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The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

