

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO: Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel

FROM: Mark D. Andrews, Research Analyst

DATE: October 17, 2001

SUBJECT: October 25, 2001 Meeting

Sen. Dan Eastman and Rep. Matt Throckmorton have scheduled a meeting of the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel as follows:

DATE: **Thursday, October 25, 2001**

TIME: **1:00 p.m.**

PLACE: **Room 414/416 State Capitol**

An agenda is enclosed. If you are unable to attend, please call me or Cassandra Bauman at 538-1032.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sen. Dan Eastman, Senate Chair
Rep. Matt Throckmorton, House Chair

Sen. Gene Davis

Rep. Trisha Beck

Rep. Jack A. Seitz

Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel Agenda

Thursday, October 25, 2001 -- 1:00 p.m. -- Room 414/416 State Capitol

1:00 1. **Call to Order and Approval of September 13, 2001 Minutes**

1:05 2. **Annual Report by the Auditor General**

Subsection 62A-4a-118(4) provides:

- "(4) (a) In addition to the review conducted by the executive director, the Legislative Auditor General shall audit a sample of child welfare referrals to and cases handled by the division, and report his findings to the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel and the Health and Human Services Interim Committee each year, on dates scheduled by the panel and committee.
- (b) With regard to the sample of referrals, removals, and cases, the Legislative Auditor General's report shall include:
- (i) findings regarding whether state statutes, division policy, and legislative policy were followed by the division and its employees;
 - (ii) a determination regarding whether referrals, removals, and cases were appropriately handled by the division and its employees, and whether children were adequately and appropriately protected and appropriate services provided for families, in accordance with the provisions of Title 62A, Chapter 4a, and Title 78, Chapter 3a, Parts 3 and 4, and division policy;
 - (iii) an assessment of the division's intake procedures and decisions, including an assessment of the appropriateness of decisions not to accept referrals;
 - (iv) an assessment of the appropriateness of the division's assignment of priority; and
 - (v) a determination regarding whether the department's review process is effecting beneficial change within the division and accomplishing the mission established by the Legislature and the department for that review process."

1:25 3. **Annual Report by the Office of Services Review**

Subsections 62A-4a-118(2) and (3) provide:

"...[T]he executive director, or his designee, shall annually review a randomly selected sample of child welfare referrals to and cases handled by the division. The purpose of that review shall be to assess whether the division is adequately protecting children and providing appropriate services to families.... The review shall focus directly on the outcome of

cases to children and families, and not simply on procedural compliance with specified criteria.

- (b) The executive director shall report, regarding his review of those cases, to the Legislative Auditor General, the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel, and the Health and Human Services Interim Committee each year, on dates scheduled by the panel and committee.
 - (c) Information obtained as a result of the review shall be provided to caseworkers, supervisors, and division personnel involved in the respective cases, for purposes of education, training, and performance evaluation.
- (3) The executive director's review and report to the Legislature shall include:
- (a) the criteria used by the executive director, or his designee, in making the evaluation;
 - (b) findings regarding whether state statutes, division policy, and legislative policy were followed in each sample case;
 - (c) findings regarding whether, in each sample case, referrals, removals, or cases were appropriately handled by the division and its employees, and whether children were adequately and appropriately protected and appropriate services provided to families, in accordance with the provisions of Title 62A, Chapter 4a, and Title 78, Chapter 3a, Parts 3 and 4, and division policy;
 - (d) an assessment of the division's intake procedures and decisions, including an assessment of the appropriateness of decisions not to accept referrals; and
 - (e) an assessment of the appropriateness of the division's assignment of priority."

- 1:50 **4. Report by Juvenile Court on Information Requested by the Panel**
- 2:10 **5. Draft Legislation "Taking Minor into Protective Custody Without Warrant"**
- 2:30 **6. Draft Legislation "Responsibility of Attorney General to Represent Division of Child and Family Services"**
- 3:20 **7. Report on Parental Defense Oversight Project**
- 3:40 **8. Draft Legislation "Immunity from Liability in Child Welfare Investigations"**
- 3:55 **9. Other Business**
- 4:00 **10. Adjourn**

