

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES & COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 19, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 223 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Beverly A. Evans, Senate Chair
Rep. Richard M. Siddoway, House Chair
Sen. Scott Jenkins
Rep. Cindy Beshear
Rep. Afton Bradshaw
Rep. Carl Duckworth
Rep. Brent Goodfellow
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
Rep. Carl R. Saunders
Rep. Peggy Wallace
Rep. Bradley A. Winn

Members Absent:

Sen. Paula Julander
President Al Mansell
Sen. Steve Poulton
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
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 by contacting the committee secretary, Jennifer Markham, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Siddoway called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Saunders moved to approve the minutes of May 22, 2002. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Beshear absent for the vote.

2. Welfare Reform

Ms. Momberger provided an overview of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and distributed a copy of her presentation.

Ms. Helen Thatcher, Program Manager, DWS (Department of Workforce Services), provided a history of Utah's welfare reform and distributed a copy of her presentation, "Utah: Where Are We in Welfare Reform?"

Mr. John Nixon, Finance Director, DWS, explained Utah's TANF grant and fund expenditures. He projected a \$4 million reserve balance.

Committee discussion followed.

3. Job Training

Ms. Sarah Brenna, Legislative Liaison, Department of Workforce Services, provided background information on welfare training and distributed "Customer Training Services."

Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Darin Brush, Director, Customer Service, DWS, explained the developing relationship between DWS and the applied technology colleges.

4. TANF Reauthorization

Ms. Brenna provided an overview of the TANF reauthorization proposals and handed out "Comparison of Current Law and Provisions in Major TANF Reauthorization Proposals."

Ms. Karen Silver, Advocate, Salt Lake Community Action Program, expressed concern with the super waiver provision and the potential lack of evaluation of the current tri-partisan bill. She expressed support for changing legislation to match the federal government's 60-month time limit on benefits. Ms. Silver suggested legislation to provide for adjustments due to inflation.

Ms. Joyce Hartman, Bringing Hope to Single Moms Foundation, indicated that many single moms do not meet TANF eligibility or have given up trying. She expressed appreciation for partnerships with Workforce Services and Office of Child Care. She emphasized the need for more public/private sector partnerships.

Committee discussion followed.

5. Unemployment Insurance

Mr. Wilson provided a report on unemployment issues and distributed "Unemployment Insurance Primer," "Unemployment Insurance Issues for 2002," and "Employment Security Advisory Council." He distributed S.B. 186, "Unemployment Benefits - Exemption for Corporate Officers," from the 2002 General Session, sponsored by Rep. Hellewell.

Mr. Christopher Love, Director, Unemployment Insurance, DWS, stated the determination of benefits is based on gross income not hours worked, but the recipient must be available and seeking full-time work to be eligible. He discussed the distribution of Reed Act funds.

Mr. Jim Finch, Deputy Director, Unemployment Insurance, DWS, compared the unemployment trust fund to the Social Security trust fund.

Committee discussion followed.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Siddoway reminded the Committee of the High Technology Business Development Subcommittee meeting on July 17, in room 403. Rep. Goodfellow stated that he had a private sector presentation he would like added to the agenda.

Mr. Wilson distributed "Child Care Amendments" draft of proposed legislation for the 2003 General Session.

MOTION: Rep. Saunders moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Philpot and Rep. Wallace absent for the vote.