

MINUTES OF THE
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
February 8, 1999, 2:00 P.M.
Room 403, State Capitol Building

Members Present: Rep. Bill Wright, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. Edgar Allen
Sen. Steve Poulton
Rep. Loretta Baca
Rep. Trisha Beck
Rep. J.W. "Bill" Hickman
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Bryan D. Holladay
Rep. Matt Throckmorton

Members Excused: Sen. Robert Muhlestein, Committee Co-Chair

Staff Present: Spencer Pratt, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Thor Nilsen, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Bonnie Brinton, Secretary

Others Present: Michael Deily, Director, Division of Health Care Financing
Ken Patterson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services
Richard Paul Evans, Christmas Box House
Eric Bjorklund, Utah Youth Private Provider Network
Robin Arnold-Williams, Executive Director, Department of Human Services
Richard Shipley, Acting Chair of the Utah Foster Care Foundation
Mary Bissonette, Executive, Director, Box Elder Family Support Center
Lynda Whitlock, Director, New Horizons Crisis Center
Sheldon B. Elman, Assistant Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services
Emily Misseldine, Concerned parent
Bill Barnes, Primary Children's medical Center
Julie Bradshaw, Director of Child Protection Team
Ann Prymeth, Child Abuse Protection Agency
Shauna Nelson and Sean Davis, Foster Care
Richard Dimick and Jeff, Progressive Youth, Inc.
Kit Hansen, President, Utah Foster Association
Pat Sorenson, Rocky Mountain Youth Services
Roz McGee, Executive Director, Utah Children
Emma Chacon, Director, Office of Recovery Services

List of Others Present on File.

Committee Co-Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Michael Deily, Director, Division of Health Care Financing, explained to the committee members the categories of eligibility for Medicaid. Ken Patterson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, responded to questions from committee members.

1. Approval of Minutes of February 3, 1999

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 1999. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Budget Hearing: Division of Child and Family Services

Fiscal Analyst - Thor Nilsen

The Analyst stated that the primary purpose of the Division of Child and Family Services is to provide child welfare services. Also, "when possible and appropriate, provide preventive services and family preservation services . . . and domestic violence services in accordance with federal law, and youth services for minors who are dependent, ungovernable, or runaway"

The Analyst recommends a total budget of \$116,670,300 for DCFS for FY 2000. Of this amount, \$59,142,300 is from the General Fund. The majority of the balance comes from federal sources. This recommendation includes adjustments, budget reductions and increases totaling \$761,700. This includes a net decrease in State funds of \$729,900.

Because of time constraints, **Ken Patterson** requested time to speak of the partnership the Division of Child and Family Services has with the Christmas Box House. He introduced **Richard Paul Evans** who presented a progress report on the Christmas Box House. He stated that these facilities provide shelter care to abused children and that 1,000 people have volunteered to help. He reported figures which showed that \$60 worth of services had been returned for every \$10 given by the Legislature. He expressed appreciation for last year's funding and stated his desire to return \$100 in services for \$10 given this coming year.

The Analyst completed his presentation of the budget of the Division of Child and Family Services.

Division of Child and Family Services

Robin Arnold-Williams, Executive Director, Department of Human Services, introduced **Ken Patterson**, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, who expressed appreciation to the Analyst for his knowledgeable and understandable presentation of his recommendation. He presented information on the services provided by the Division of Child and Family Services. He stated that the key to success is in the use of partnerships in providing services and he listed those partners. He urged support for additional funding for the foster families.

Mr. Patterson agreed to provide Sen. Poulton with a written summary of the results regarding the benefits of foster care as opposed to orphanages.

Richard Shipley, Acting Chair of the Utah Foster Care Foundation, was introduced by Mr. Patterson. Mr. Shipley presented information regarding the Utah Foster Care Foundation organization, services provided and funding.

Linda Whitlock, Director, New Horizons Crisis Center, presented information contained in handouts distributed regarding domestic violence crimes and services provided to victims. She requested \$500,000 in funding for domestic violence programs.

Ken Patterson discussed the status of the SAFE system. He reported that since development is almost completed, funding will be used for operation and maintenance. He agreed to provide a demonstration of SAFE for any interested committee members.

Others:

Mary Bissonette, Utah Association of Family Support Centers, spoke regarding services provided by Family

Support Centers. A critical service provided is the Crisis Nursery. She is requesting \$58,000 in funding.

Emily Misseldine, concerned parent, explained the services provided by the Box Elder Family Support Center and the support and services she has received.

Bill Barnes, Primary Children's Medical Center, spoke regarding the Child Abuse Protection Proposal and the Primary Prevention Centers. He assured committee members of the continued support of the Primary Children's Medical Center.

Julie Bradshaw, Director of the Child Protection Team, and **Ann Prymeth**, team member, Child Protection Team, spoke regarding services for families. A parent, who wished to remain unidentified, spoke regarding the services she received from the Children's Justice Center and asked for support for funding the Center.

Eric Bjorklund, Utah Youth Private Provider Network, stated that there has not been a rate increase in four years for the residential providers and they are losing over 65% of the front line staff each year due to low wages. However, the Network is utilizing strategies to provide funding, including federal revenues. He urged support of the Governor's intent language to apply budgetary flexibility and make available rate increases to the private residential providers.

Shauna Nelson, foster parent, and **Sean Davis**, foster child, spoke regarding the Utah Youth Village and the services provided there.

Richard Dimick, Director, Progressive Youth, Inc., reported a 95% turnover rate in employees because of low wages and stated that any money saved or funding received would go to line employees, not upper management salaries. Mr. Dimick introduced **Jeff**, a young man receiving services, who spoke of his success and his desire to return to his home.

Kit Hansen, President, Utah State Foster Families Association, urged support for the building block which would increase a foster parent's daily rate.

Pat Sorenson, Rocky Mountain Youth Services Private Provider, spoke in support of increased funding for employees.

Roz McGee, Executive Director, Utah Children, spoke in favor of funding the programs in DCFS.

3. **Budget Hearing: Office of Recovery Services**

Fiscal Analyst - Thor Nilsen

Mr. Nilsen stated that the ORS is responsible for collecting funds owed to the State from individuals receiving Social Services and Medical Assistance services. The Analyst recommends a total appropriation of \$39,309,100 for ORS for FY 2000. This includes \$11,879,300 from the General Fund, with most of the balance coming from federal sources.

The 1998 Legislature included intent language which stated that the ORS would maintain a process for responding to constituent complaints in a timely manner, and attempt to resolve those complaints within the provisions and limitations of state and federal law.

Office of Recovery Services

Robin Arnold-Williams introduced **Emma Chacon**, Director, Office of Recovery Services, who responded to questions from committee members. She reported that \$3.41 was collected in child support for every \$1.00 spent. The ORS collected \$122,000,000 last year, the majority of which was in the child support program. This year they are projecting collecting \$130,000,000.

Ms. Chacon stated that the ORS has responded to the intent language emphasizing communication and public satisfaction, in part by creating regional customer service centers to help with communication with parents. One of the strategies is an attempt to deter parents from receiving public assistance. The ORS is providing educational training support for employers, noting that 75% of money recovered comes from employers. Ms. Chacon urged support for funding for additional staff.

MOTION: Rep. Holladay moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Sen. Poulton and Reps. Baca, Hickman, Hogue and Throckmorton absent at the time of voting.

Committee Co-Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Bonnie Brinton, Secretary.

Sen. Robert Muhlestein, Co-Chair

Rep. Bill Wright, Co-Chair