

MINUTES OF THE
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 31, 2001
Room 403, State Capitol Building

CORRECTED MINUTES

Members Present: Sen. David H. Steele, Committee Co-Chair
Rep. Jack A. Seitz, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. Edgar Allen
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Rep. Trisha Beck
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca Lockhart
Rep. Carl S. Saunders
Rep. Matt Throckmorton

Members Excused: L. Steven Poulton

Staff Present: Thor Nilsen, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Spencer C. Pratt Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Norda Shepard, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Dr. Scott Williams, Deputy Director, Department of Health
Jennifer Walcher
Erica Villarreal
Diana Sagers
Eva Shoell
Dick Melton, Deputy Director, Department of Health
Charles Brokopp, Director, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services
Rick Townsend, Department of Public Safety
Jamee Roberts, Executive Director, Rape Recovery Center
Matt Watson, Primary Children's Child Protection Team
Dr. George Delavan, Director, Community and Family Health Services
Tamara Lewis, M.D., Chair of the Tobacco Prevention Advisory Board
Tom Love, President, Love Communications
Cathy Walsler, Weber-Morgan Health Department
Robert Humbert, American Legacy Project Youth Planning Coordinator
Marc Robb, Utah Teen Quiltline

Visitor List on File

Committee Co-Chair Steele called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Public Testimony on Baby Watch Early Intervention

Co-Chair Steele stated that the agenda would be adjusted to accommodate families who were in attendance with small children to testify on the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program.

Jennifer Walcher, introduced herself as a married mother of two with credentials as an elementary school teacher. She stated that when her second child was about 18 months old, she knew she was not developmentally on track. She explained that the family used all their educational, financial and private insurance resources to try to get her the help she needed. Even with all these resources, the family still desperately needed the services

of Early Intervention. They began early intervention when the child was 22 months old and then she was diagnosed with Developmental Apraxia, a motor speech disorder. The once a week home visits from the Early Intervention therapist have been the most important aspect of the program. Coming into the home allowed the therapist to see the child in her own environment and to make suggestions to the family.

Erica Villarreal, stated their family had been participating in the program for three years. They were referred by Primary Children's Hospital when her son was born with oral and motor issues. He could not suck or swallow. She stated that without Early Intervention, her son would not be walking. He was almost three years old when he started walking. He second child had a difficult delivery and has been tentatively diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. She explained that if this condition was not caught early, his muscles would have continued to become tighter, but with continued therapy, it is felt he will have fewer repercussions.

Diana Sagers handed out a printed letter and discussed the problems with her daughter, Rebecca, who was born with Cyto-megalo virus, which was contracted during pregnancy. Due to the damage caused by the virus, Rebecca has hearing loss, vision impairment and developmental delays in motor and cognitive skills. They were referred to Early Prevention by Primary Children's Hospital. She told of the difference made in Rebecca with help from the therapists, her hearing aid and glasses. She stated she was infinitely grateful to the Early Intervention program and could not imagine what her life would be without their help and concern.

Eva Shoell showed pictures of her children stating she wanted the committee to be touched. She said she appreciated the opportunity to speak about the Early Intervention Program. She told of her experience in having two children eleven months apart. She said she felt a little concern when her son, the second child, was not talking as early as the first child, but he seemed to be a happy, normal toddler. When he was two, a few strange patterns evolved. A friend referred her to DDI Advantage where a team of therapists evaluated her son and he qualified for Early Intervention. He started seeing speech and occupational therapists. She stated she also learned from the therapists how she could work with her son everyday. He son was diagnosed with Autism. She stated that today, with Early Intervention help, her son is doing well. She stated they still have a long road ahead of them and she did not know where her family would be without the program. She stated Early Invention is so important for all families with special needs. She said it is an opportunity for government to work right in the heart of our homes.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the minutes of 1-29-01. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Budget Hearing: Department of Health - Epidemiology and Laboratory Services

Analyst Spencer Pratt stated the Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services encompasses a director's office, three programs with the State Health Laboratory and three programs associated with community health services. He is recommending a total budget of \$12,975,600. He stated there has been a request for additional funds in the State Health Laboratory as a result of pressure being put on it by law enforcement agencies throughout the state. These agencies rely on the lab to run toxicology tests on drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or other substances, the new "date rape" drugs and other substance abuse. The analyst is recommending \$110,400 for these additional funds.

He stated although the lab has not received any equipment donations during the past three years, the analyst is recommending that intent language to allow them this opportunity be continued. He is recommending \$979,200 for the Director's Office. He noted the nonlapsing balance from FY2001 of \$203,900 was for lab equipment use as need. This has not been used, but the division anticipates they will be using this for equipment replacement. The analyst's recommendations are \$1,936,400 for Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology; \$889,500 for Laboratory Improvement and \$1,905,300 for Microbiology. He stated the Microbiology budget

has increased over the past few years due mostly to new federal grant funds and the enhancing of the newborn screening process.

Other bureaus within the division are HIV/AIDS/TB Control/Refuge Health, whose mission is to protect the public health, with a recommended budget of \$4,699,700; Food Safety and Environmental Health, responsible for food protection, plumbing codes, cleaning indoor air, swimming pools, recreation areas, schools, hotel and motels and public buildings, with a recommended budget of \$441,600; and Epidemiology, which operates Communicable Disease Control, Environmental Epidemiology, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control and Surveillance, with a recommended budget of \$2,124,100. There are also fees to be considered by this committee.

Dick Melton, Deputy Director, Department of Health, responded to committee questions regarding using the state lab versus using private labs. He stated that as a general rule public health laboratories do tests that no one else really wants to do. He stated that in the law enforcement area most of the commercial labs do not want to have to go to court. Part of the job of state toxicologists is to support their findings in court. He stated that is part of the reason their lab fees are sometimes higher because the time spent in court is included in the fees. He stated that if they find tests can be done at a lower expense in the private sector, they encourage this. He said they are not in business to compete with the private sector.

Charles Brokopp, Director, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, distributed a "Mission Statement" handout. He thanked Mr. Pratt and Kim Hood for their work in preparing the budgets and thanked the committee for its support. He said he would not duplicate what is in the handout or the Budget Analysis book, but would highlight some exciting things going on within the division. He said these things are core public health services. He highlighted the disease and infection surveillance and prevention network set up to help track and monitor these diseases, the division's efforts to support monitoring and testing for safe water, and food safety. The division trains others to properly handle, store and prepare food and makes inspections to insure the public's safety. He said much of what they do goes unnoticed when they do their jobs well. He said there are many public health professionals working on his team. They are listed with their area of responsibility in the handout. He said there were two areas of budget concerns, both outlined on budget fact sheets. They are support for state and local law enforcement agencies for \$110,400 and laboratory capital equipment funding for \$340,000.

Rich Townsend, Director of Forensic Services for the Department of Public Safety, stated he was impressed with the Division's testimony. He stated that as far as the law enforcement perspective is concerned they have a great relationship working with the Department of Health. He stated that having the state agencies do toxicology work for law enforcement rather than bringing in out of state experts is a great savings.

4. Voting on Budgets

MOTION: Rep. Seitz moved to consider for the priority list the following divisions in the Department of Health: Executive Director's Office, Veterans' Nursing Home, Health Systems Improvement, Physicians and Physician Assistants Grant and Scholarship Program, Nurse Education Financial Assistance Program, and Special Population Health Care Provider Financial Assistance Program.

5. Budget Hearing: Department of Health -Community and Family Health Services

Analyst Pratt stated that this is one of the bigger budgets in the Department of Health. He is recommending a budget of \$84,867,900. The division strives to reduce illness, disability and death among the citizens of the state. He stated that last year the Legislature approved using \$4 million in proceeds from the tobacco settlement agreement for the Department of Health for tobacco education, prevention and cessation programs. Last year the Legislature also approved \$300,000 in General Funds for early intervention services. This program is growing by leaps and bounds necessitating a request for an additional \$600,000 for FY2002. Mr. Pratt stated

this program is what the families were addressing earlier in the meeting. He noted that this division has proposed some organizational changes combining the Director's Office and Division Resources together and Health Education and Chronic Disease together.

A discussion was held regarding the request for line item budgets from the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. The analysts will work to compile this information as soon as possible.

Rep. Beck presented an appropriation request for Sexual Violence Prevention and Community Awareness in the amount of \$235,800. She distributed a folder containing information regarding the requested appropriation, which was a recommendation of the former Council for Sexual Victims and Offenders.

Jamee Roberts, Executive Director, Rape Recovery Center, reported that the Center of Disease Control has defined sexual assault as a public health issue. They estimate that in Utah one in four girls and one in seven boys will become victims of sexual assault. She stated the long term consequences are destructive and painful, not only to the victim, but to family and friends as well. She stated that prevention education can make a measurable difference.

Matt Watson, a clinical social worker with Primary Children's Medical Center Child Protection Team, stated that they provide therapy for children and families who have experienced sexual abuse, as well as for children who are sexual aggressors. He stated that many victims are quite naive and that is what makes them vulnerable. If they don't have the education and the understanding that their bodies are private and personal and that they have permission to say no, their vulnerability is increased.

A young victim and her mother (names withheld for privacy) testified about the importance of education. The young lady said she told her mother of the assault against her when she learned in school that it was okay to tell. The mother stated that she had been assaulted as a youth and that all aspects of her life had been affected. She said she was glad they now have educational programs to help young people be prepared.

Rep. Beck asked for committee support of this appropriation request and said to keep in mind that it is cheaper to build a child than to repair an adult.

Dr. Scott Williams, Deputy Director, Department of Health, stated the department appreciated Mr. Pratt's work on these complicated budgets. He explained that even though the department was doing some reorganizing, the programs were not changing. He stated they would like to focus on three main issues today, those being the report on the tobacco money, the Early Intervention Program, and suicide prevention. Fact sheets were distributed for the Early Intervention Program and Youth Suicide Prevention.

Dr. George Delavan, Director, Community and Family Health Services, discussed the explanation of the new funds request of \$600,000 for the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program. There is a great need for this because the case load is growing and the cost of providing services is growing. The department has had an average increase of 700 children each year for the past three years. He also discussed the \$60,000 request for Youth Suicide Prevention. He stated that Utah is well above the national rate for youth suicides. It is the number one cause of death in males from age 15 to 44 in Utah. He stated a pilot program of wrap around services to prevent youth suicide will be established.

Dr. Tamara Lewis, Chair of the Tobacco Prevention Advisory Board, stated that the advisory board was given the task to look at the best national and local data on the most effective programs for tobacco prevention and cessation and put together the criteria for our communities. She stated the emphasis is focusing on targeted populations in the areas of prevention, community collaboration, cessation, media, and enforcement activities. Many of the activities are filtered out through local health departments as well as local community agencies.

Tom Love, President, Love Communications, reported on the implementation of the media campaign. The campaign was launched on October 1st. The teen prevention and cessation campaign, with sub-emphasis on adult cessation, and launching awareness to the Utah Teen Quit Line has been their focus. They have created media relationships with every television station and radio group in the state of Utah. They are all running specials, prime time events, late night news coverages, news theme weeks and specials. He stated he has never seen such a rally cry and media support around a singular issue before in the Utah area.

Cathy Walser, Weber-Morgan Health Department, stated her department was granted one of the grants to do projects in the area of tobacco prevention and cessation. She stated they have tried to have a comprehensive program. She said that currently less than 5% of all the health departments in the country have a truly comprehensive program. She stated they have developed a community coalition which includes IHC, the local hospital, the police department, school district administration, school nurses and counselors, private agencies, such as the American Cancer Society, After School Prevention Program and youth representatives. She displayed the "Tobacco Blows" ad and said she absolutely feels they are making a difference.

Robert Humbert, a youth with the American Legacy Project, stated he wanted to share what the youth in the state of Utah are doing with this movement. He stated their program is run by youth, their program grants are written by youth and the plans are administered by youth. He stated they are just getting started and have just touched the surface. He stated they have done research on what has already been done and been effective in other states. He said they have active representation of all the areas of Utah.

Marc Robb reported his experiences with the Utah Teen Quitline. He stated he was 19 years old and had been smoking for 10 years and decided it was time to quit. He called the Utah Teen Quitline and stated he found counselors who gave him great advise and support. He said they helped him through the tough times and helped him realize the true dangers of smoking. He stated he was thankful for the program and it had helped him a great deal.

Co-chair Steele reminded committee members that the committee meeting on Friday, February 2, would be held in the State Office Building Auditorium.

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Steele adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes reported by Norda Shepard, Secretary.

Sen. David H. Steele
Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Jack A. Seitz
Committee Co-Chair