

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room 30 West House Building, State Capitol Complex
February 7, 2014 a.m.

Members Present: Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove, Co-Chair
Rep. Daniel McCay, House Vice Chair
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Luz Robles
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Earl D. Tanner

Members Excused: Sen. Luz Robles

Members Absent: Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa

Staff Present: Mr. Russell T. Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Stephen C. Jardine, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Paula Winter, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

0. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Building Blocks – Department of Workforce Services

<http://leg.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001800.pdf>
<http://leg.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001797.pdf>

- a. Jon Pierpont, Director, Department of Workforce Services, made their first request for a \$600,000 ongoing child care subsidy for infants, 3, 4, and 5 year olds. He explained the reason for the request and explained the goal to build an expedited child care program which would mean making decisions within a 7 day time limit. The last part of the request is to have a job search based program which would allow someone who had lost their job to receive part time child care and assist them in finding employment.
- b. Mr. Pierpont next spoke on Refugee Services and a request for a \$200,000 one-time request to assist in English as a Second Language (ESL). This would assist in helping people

to prepare for driver's licenses, job skills, and employment.

c. Mr. Pierpont moved to the Job Growth funding to come from the Special Administrative Expense Account. He stated it is not a General Fund request but asks for authority to use the funds in the Department for job growth type projects.

Rep. Chavez-Houck requested information about what services for refugees would address those who have PTSD. She also asked about services offered that would deal with other challenges and how those dovetail into preparation for life skills. Mr. Pierpont explained the primary sources and also explained the services depending on their circumstance.

d. Mr. Pierpont stated that the last request had to do with the Reed Act request which goes toward employment purposes. The request is for the authority to use the \$4.5 million.

3. Building Block - American Cancer Society Hope Lodge

Rep. Brad Dee introduced the Hope Lodge which provides a free place to stay for individuals dealing with cancer. The Lodge needs \$2 million to begin construction.

Kate Eccles, Chair, Hope Lodge Campaign Board, presented the request for \$2,000,000 one-time funding to complete the amount for being able to break ground for the facility. Ms. Eccles explained that nearly \$15,000,000 has been raised with much of that coming from private donors. She continued to present the reasons for the project being built here. She stated that the performance measure would be that in 18 months the facility would be open with 41 rooms available to use.

Rep. Tanner asked if meals and housekeeping are part of the stay at Hope Lodge. Ms. Eccles explained that there are common kitchen areas and each patient will maintain their own room.

Sen. Knudson asked about the difference between Ronald McDonald House and Hope Lodge. Ms. Eccles explained that the Hope Lodge is for adults 18 and older and for the patient and a caregiver.

Rep. Chavez-Houck spoke in support of the Lodge.

Rep. Redd asked how the facility will continue to be funded. Ms. Eccles explained that the American Cancer Society will continue to raise private funds annually. She also stated that through their Grateful Patient Program about 75% of the patients who have stayed at Hope Lodge give back and raise about 30% of the operating funds. The American Cancer Society has already donated \$800,000 for the first two years of operations.

4. Building Block – Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund

Michelle Flynn, The Road Home, requested \$1.6 million one-time funding for case management. She continued to explain the purpose for case management and the importance of a case manager

to the individuals they serve and their continued progress by assisting in the providing of a network for the individuals.

Kristy Chambers, Chief Executive Officer, 4th Street Clinic, spoke about the medical outreach team and its function in the community of homeless individuals. She supported the case management and how this connects all the facets of the program.

Rep. Menlove asked Ms. Flynn to explain what the caseload of a case manager would be and Ms. Flynn replied that the largest case load would be up to 40-50 over the course of a year, for chronically homeless individuals with severe disabilities the case load would be much lower at around 15-20 individuals per person.

Rep. Menlove also inquired how the funding is being handled now. Ms. Flynn replied that private, state and Federal sources have been used. The Department of Housing and Human Development no longer has case management as a priority for their funding sources and they are being asked to look for other sources for case management.

Rep. Menlove suggested she is looking for something more specific in Performance Measures so the outcome could be measured. She asked them to rework that so it could be measured.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked for clarification of how this would spread over the different programs as to case management placement.

Tamara Kohler, Director, State Community Services Office, Housing and Community Development, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), indicated that there is additional support coming through the Medicaid expansion and there is more need for case management. Ms. Kohler also stated that performance measures could be prepared for the committee.

Chavez-Houck said she would like to see the trends in the various communities.

5. Building Block – Road Home Shelter

Matt Minkevitch, Executive Director, The Road Home, spoke about the replacement of the Midvale facility. He referred to last year's funding which was to re-roof the facility and the match by the LDS church. The realization on inspection was that the facility needed to be torn down and rebuilt. Mr. Minkevitch explained that all other funders had been contacted about the change and was requesting funding through the Committee to be able to proceed with the project.

Rep. Cosgrove asked for an explanation of the services provided. Mr. Minkevitch continued by explaining the fluctuation in service numbers. He explained the current facility and the scenario during the peak of winter in the facility. He stated that they also partner with the DWS to help provide assistance to get the families out of the shelter into housing. He explained that there has been an 87% success rate with the families sheltered there.

Chavez-Houck asked if there is a way to track through intake where these people come from. Mr. Minkevitch explained that there is an intake process and people come from all over the state and mainly across the Wasatch Front. Rep. Chavez-Houck also inquired about the housing of veterans and Mr. Minkevitch explained that they do use about half of the beds in the shelter system and in order to address that they have partnered with the Division of Housing and Community Development to target those individuals to create permanent housing solutions with supportive case management and thus reduce their numbers in the shelter to be able to serve more families there.

Rep. Menlove shared her great respect but stated that the homework wasn't done and the funds were reallocated to the General Fund and the \$500,000 allocated could have helped others on the disabilities waiting list. Rep. Menlove continued on about the importance of the accountability the Committee has to the taxpayers.

Mr. Minkevitch explained the struggle they have had getting this ready. He continued to explain the steps they have taken to prepare and enumerated the things that are ready and are moving forward. He explained that there is no building permit at this time.

Rep. Menlove suggested that they would have to discuss some things before she could support this request because there are other dire needs in the state.

Rep. Steve Eliason took responsibility for this request. He explained how the process went and commended the group for raising the money they have raised.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked if the money wasn't granted would that impede the process and could this be a challenge to them as far as the other donors. Mr. Minkevitch answered that it would definitely be an impediment. He emphasized the importance of the immediacy of building this shelter.

Rep. Eliason stated that the LDS church offered a building but the mayor of that city said that would not be an option. He discussed the issue of zoning. Rep. McCay commented that this seems such a difficult issue of zoning and suggested maybe the zoning should be looked at.

6. Request for Appropriation (Sen. Christensen) - Problems Assistance Action Group (PAAG)

Jan Zogmaster, Commissioner, Weber County, introduced two other individuals involved with PAAG and then requested \$300,000. She continued to give a background for PAAG. She emphasized that the main direction of the group is to find housing for those coming out of the State Mental Hospital. She explained the effect the absence of the program would have on the community. Sen. Weiler spoke in support of this program and said there would be 100 homeless people back on the streets. He stated that without the funding the community would have expensive fees being paid for emergency room visits, jail time, and other similar things.

Rep. Dee stated that this has been the reoccurring theme on this Committee to expect people to make programs work for minimal dollars. This is the model the rest of the state should follow. He explained how the people involved have become self-sufficient. He continued to talk about the positive results of the homeless people living in this situation.

Rep. Redd wanted to clarify where those people served come from. Ms. Zogmaster and Rep. Redd conversed about them coming from Weber County Community Services and that all have mental health issues. Ms. Zogmaster explained the uses for the \$300,000 being requested. Rep. Redd and Ms. Zogmaster conversed about the services offered.

Rhett Potter, Acting Director PAAG, spoke about what these services provide and how they have tried to establish therapeutic communities within the chronically mentally ill population.

7. Request for Appropriations (Rep. Cosgrove) - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Earn it Keep it, Save it (VITA)

Rep. Cosgrove shared the reason for VITA and the requested \$395,000 purpose and the benefits of it within the state.

Paul Liggett, Executive Director, VITA. Spoke on the purpose and qualifications of those involved in the VITA program. Mr. Liggett explained the need to expand.

Emily Jordison, Community Action Partnership (CAP), explained her association with VITA and how they were assisted when they were without an income.

President Niederhauser asked about the support of the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants (UACPA) association. Mr. Liggett replied that there is no formal support currently.

8. Request for appropriation (Rep. Menlove) - Refugee Services

Rep. Menlove spoke about the situation of many of the refugees and about how they are being served. She stated the central problem of when refugees come to our state and the 8 months of support they currently have after they arrive. This additional funding would provide for case managers to guide those struggling with varying issues and need additional transition time to adjust to our society. She stated there are about 40 refugees per case worker now which would be cut to 20 per caseworker with funding. The request is for \$1,000,000. She continued to explain the situation with the refugee families. She also explained about the difficulty of coordinating volunteers, finding English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and volunteers. Rep. Menlove spoke of her experience with ESL and compared it to what she saw in a classroom.

Rep. Roberts requested clarification about the funding request.

11. Building Block – Independent Living Centers

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002048.pdf>

Nancy Bentley, Director, Active Re-Entry Center for Independent Living in Eastern Utah, requested \$250,000 to be divided up according to formula to each of 6 centers. Ms. Bentley presented and itemized the request and explained their function as well as performance measures.

Randy Beck, Consumer, Ability First, clarified the definition of an Independent Living Center and shared his situation in working with Ability First. Sen. Christensen spoke in behalf of the centers. Sen. Weiler commented on his impression of the facilities.

9. Workforce Services Fees - Issue Brief

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002104.pdf>

Russell Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst, discussed the brief and the revenue generated by the New Fees and Fee Change.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to approve the fee schedule for the Department of Workforce Services.

Motion passed unanimously with Sen. Robles excused for the vote and Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, Sen. Shiozawa, and Rep. Chavez-Houck absent for the vote.

13. Fees in the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation – Issue Brief

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002054.pdf>

Stephen Jardine, Fiscal Analyst, explained the Brief.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to approve the fee schedule for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation.

Motion passed unanimously with Sen. Robles excused for the vote and Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, Sen. Shiozawa, and Rep. Chavez- Houck absent for the vote.

12. Independent Living Centers – Issue Brief

Mr. Jardine indicated this issue brief was for information only.

Sen. Christensen invited Russell Thelin back for the meeting at 2:00 today.

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to adjourn at 9:50 AM

Co-Chair Christensen stated that the next meeting would be held on February 7, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Co-Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair

Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove, Co-Chair