

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room 30 West House Building, State Capitol Complex
February 7, 2014 P.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
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: President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
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.le.utah.gov.

0. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

House Vice-Chair McCay called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. Unfinished Items from Previous Agenda: Building Blocks – Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002045.pdf>

Russ Thelin, Executive Director, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) explained there are 4 Building Blocks being requested by USOR - the first of which was heard in the morning meeting and was from Independent Living Centers. Mr. Thelin introduced the other 3 requests:

Priority 1) Vocational Rehabilitation for \$1.6 million for Direct Client Services and Staffing Needs;

Priority 2) Independent Living Centers – Assistive Technology \$500,000;

Priority 3) Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing- \$81,694 for a Southern Utah Caseworker Specialist II.

Mr. Thelin also shared the performance measures for each one of the USOR requests. There was some discussion as he presented each request.

Sen. Vickers commented on the breakdown of the budget and supported the request.

2. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Menlove) – Telehealth Services in Medicaid

Rep. Menlove explained how the proposal came about and stated this request would be for a full-time Medicaid Telehealth Program Specialist and outlined the position. She continued to explain the service purpose and the outcome measures. This request is for \$70,000. There is an additional request of \$1,000,000 for TeleHealth Infrastructure Enhancements which would be a one-time request. Rep. Menlove continued to explain the needs of the program.

Rep. Tanner inquired if there is any federal money available for the infrastructure enhancements and spoke in support of the idea. Rep. Menlove said currently there is nothing they have identified.

Rep. McCay asked if there would be a stable internet connection and if this infrastructure is part of that. There was discussion about connecting the users to the telehealth providers and how that would work. Rep. Roberts joined in on the conversation and asked for clarification about using “iPads” and connectivity.

Rep. Roberts asked for clarification on how the “iPad” use would work and how if there is not connectivity. Rep. Menlove answered that the idea is to beef up the connectivity.

3. Request for appropriation (Rep. Cosgrove) – Workforce Financial Assistance Loan Repayment

Rep. Cosgrove presented background information for funding and requested \$300,000 in funding.

David Gessel, Executive Vice-President, Utah Hospital Association (UHA), spoke of the difficulty of bringing physicians to rural areas. He reported that our state is the only one without a state loan repayment program. Without such a program it makes it difficult to compete for doctors willing to go into the rural areas in Utah. He referred to a handout entitled “Request to Refund the State Loan Repayment Program”. Mr. Gessel cited a rural hospital that just lost two of its physicians and stated the difficulty it will have in recruiting other physicians.

Sen. Christensen asked if other health care providers are being included. Mr. Gesell replied that they would like to include the physicians as much as possible. Mr. Gessel continued to explain

more about the plan.

Sen. Christensen stated that there are underserved areas in downtown Ogden and downtown Salt Lake and wanted reassurance that physicians will go to rural areas and not downtown underserved areas.

Dr. Marc Babitz, Director, Family Health and Preparedness, Utah Department of Health (UDOH), explained that he was not there to advocate funding because this is not part of the governor's budget but would answer any questions that he could about the issue. He spoke about the committee organized to prioritize the areas most in need. He said that there is a problem recruiting because salaries are lower but cost of living is lower also.

4. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Cosgrove) - Primary Care Grants Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH)

Rep. Cosgrove explained the purpose of a request for \$200,000 one-time for primary care grants.

Lincoln Neering, Representative, Association of Utah Community Health, presented background and information on how the care is provided. He stated the care in the centers is not free but is provided on a sliding fee scale. He reported on the services provided last year. Most of the grant comes from the federal government but the total fell short last year. Sen. Christensen, Dr. Babitz, and Rep. Redd continued a conversation about the request. Sen. Henderson wondered if Medicaid is expanded are the grants still needed. Mr. Neering responded and Mr. Babitz explained that we don't know the impact yet.

5. Fees in the Department of Health (DOH) – Issue Brief

Russell Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst, referred to the Brief and explained that the DOH intends to generate \$13.4 million via fees. He referred to the summary area of increases, the fee schedule of action taken by the Committee as well as the increases for new fees and fee changes. Sen. Christensen requested clarification on the Health Data increase.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the fee schedule for the Department of Health as presented in this issue brief from staff.

Motion passed unanimously with Sen. Robles excused for the vote and Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Tanner absent for the vote

7. SUCCESS Examples and Progress – Department of Health

Dave Lewis, Director, Organizational Development and Performance Improvement (ODPI), Department of Health, introduced Jeff Mulitalo. He proceeded to page 4 of the handout entitled "SUCCESS Framework, Improving Efficiency at the Utah Department of Health, a Report Prepared for the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee, February 7, 2014" and gave an

overview of the project. He discussed appropriate methodology and processes to measure Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) performance and Provider Enrollment Application, Vital Record, processing Birth and Death Certificates, Baby Watch – Early Intervention, and Laboratory Testing Services in Disease Control and Prevention. Jeff Mulitalo, Operational Excellence Consultant, Governor’s Office of Management and Budget spoke on the Baby Watch Throughput operating strategy page in the document. Dr. Robin Atkinson – Dunn, Governor’s Office, spoke on the Laboratory Throughput operating Strategy page from the same document. Mr. Lewis proceeded through the information on Success Utah Public Health Laboratory information on pages 7 and 8 of the handout.

Rep. Chavez-Houck inquired about what the effects of a pandemic would be in the outcome measurement. Ms. Atkinson-Dunn replied about how that would be looked at and those kinds of things wouldn’t be looked at until they have a year’s data.

8. SUCCESS Examples and Progress – Department of Human Services

Ann Silverberg Williamson, Director, Department of Human Services, explained that their targets are focused on the effectiveness of serving children in home rather than in State custody. She stated that another focus will be in serving children with the least restrictive settings when they are in State custody – through child welfare as well as Juvenile Justice Services (JJS), Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) and next looking to increase the rate of cost effectiveness in the Office of Recovery Services.

Rep. McCay asked if there were any examples of how those measures may help them to accomplish their primary objectives. Ms. Williamson replied that seeing kids safe in their homes is the number one objective and is the common thread in their measures.

9. SUCCESS Examples and Progress – Department of Workforce Services

Mike Miller, Director of Operational Excellence, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), referred to the 4 divisions where there has been focus on SUCCESS implementation: 1) Eligibility Services, 2) Workforce Development, 3) Unemployment, and 4) Housing and Community Development. He continued to explain their procedures and ideas.

10. SUCCESS Examples and Progress – Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR)

Russell Thelin, Executive Director Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, offered to go through the information available but the model is not the same because they have not integrated SUCCESS in the same way.

Sen. Christensen said that from USOR he has heard both compliments and fewer complaints and that is good. He complimented Mr. Thelin on the job being done in the Department.

Rep. McCay asked if there was something in the presentation that would highlight what the success of the department has in the way of what it might be doing for the next year.

Mr. Thelin responded that in the past there was emphasis on the process rather than the counseling which is the single most successful service their agency provides. The effort through the Rehab Way, which incorporates some of the components of SUCCESS, has allowed for more time for counseling rather than process oriented impacts. He referred to the counseling chart and reviewed it and results shown on it.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked about diminishing return and if that was a possibility.

Mr. Thelin answered that they are stretched fairly thin in certain areas but that the services provided are effective and have had an impact on serving the individuals. Rep. Chavez-Houck also asked about how the staff is being monitored and their satisfaction with the job. Mr. Thelin responded positively that the staff is being monitored anecdotally and in other ways.

Mr. Frandsen advised on the updates for the Committee and explained that their task is to identify any internal re-allocations and if the subcommittee chooses to use them, what those re-allocations would be used for and also to prioritize the Building Blocks on the documents supplied entitled:

1. Ongoing State funds Building Block priority list
2. One-time State funds Building Block Priority List

for the departments of Health, Human Services, Workforce Services and the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation.

MOTION: Rep. Chavez-Houck moved to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.