

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Room 30 West House Building, State Capitol Complex  
February 11, 2014 PM

**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. Luz Robles  
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa  
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 Absent:** Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
President Wayne L. Niederhauser  
Sen. Evan J. Vickers

**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](http://www.leg.utah.gov).

**0. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Menlove called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

**1. Unfinished Items from the Previous Agenda**

**I. What Doing to Encourage Efficiency – Follow up on Discussion During 2013  
General Session (Department of Health - DOH)**

Dr. David Patton, Executive Director Department of Health, referred to the 4 goals of the DOH and discussed the 3 strategies for efficiency and transparency.

Rep. Chavez-Houck desired to have the outcomes shared in relation to preventative care in the ACA and in terms of reimbursement to providers. Dr. Patton replied that he was referring to the ACO and that it was fairly early in the process but when there is sufficient information the data will be provided.

**II. What Doing to Encourage Efficiency – Follow up on Discussion During 2013  
General Session (Department of Human Services - DHS)**

Ann Silverberg Williamson, Executive Director, Department of Human Services, reported on department efficiencies including their investment in professional development for employees, from direct services, and from operational efficiency. She continued to highlight various items.

#### **IV. Results of Working Groups on Optional Expansion**

Rep. Menlove indicated that this would be handled through handouts to the Committee.

#### **4. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Froerer) – Weber County Youth Impact Potential** <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002195.pdf>

Rep. Froerer introduced the program and Cari Fullerton, Senior Vice President, Bank of Utah, who spoke as an advocate for the Youth Impact Program. She talked about the program and its successes. The program is asking for \$25,000 for a teacher to assist so that the program could be doubled. That teacher's purpose would be to raise GPA.

Rep. Menlove inquired whether this request had been submitted to Public Education and Rep. Froerer responded that they had not yet but would do so if they were denied.

#### **2. Request for Appropriations - Use Only as Directed Prescription Drug Awareness Campaign**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002183.pdf>  
<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002186.pdf>  
<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002180.pdf>

Brad Daw, former Representative, pointed out how the use of drugs is detrimental. Mr. Daw requested \$500,000 ongoing funds to be used for an ongoing awareness campaign on drug addiction.

#### **3. Tax on Medicaid and CHIP Providers from Federal Health Care Reform**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002235.pdf>  
<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002232.pdf>

Chad Westover, President, Molina Healthcare and Russ Elbel, Medicaid Program Director, Select Health, introduced themselves and acknowledged the support of other Medicaid and Dental health supporters present. Mr. Westover spoke on the federally imposed tax in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the premiums on all plans that provide care. He stated that the Medicaid programs cannot change their premiums and that causes difficulty to offset the tax which in turn will erode the purpose of the Affordable Care Organizations (ACOs) which is to contain the costs and trends for the members.

Sen. Christensen asked about the tax and requested clarification on the tax amount for their request and Mr. Westover stated that they have estimated between 1.9 and 2.3 %.

## **5. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Ray) – Medicaid Ambulance Reimbursement**

Mike Matthieu, Ogden City Fire Chief, requested funding to pay for those Medicaid people served. He explained that the reimbursement rate now is approximately between 8 and 12 % of billed charges. Increased funding is being requested so that the costs do not shift to other users of the service. He continued to explain the need.

Sen. Shiozawa questioned about the reimbursement percentage level for those who will fall under Medicaid expansion. Mr. Matthieu explained how that was determined.

Sen. Henderson reviewed the change on her proposed motion for an appropriation of \$70,000 in connection with Food Stamp eligibility. She referred to item #4 on the sheet entitled “Senator Henderson Motion Sheet Regarding Office of Recovery Services Fees and Programming 2/11/2014 2:16 PM”.

Sen. Robles questioned the purpose of the request and spoke on domestic violence victims and requested they be excluded. Sen. Henderson voiced concern about the same types of things and asked Geoff Landward, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), to address that. Mr. Landward introduced Kathy Link, Manager, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program, DWS, who answered that the regulations are already contained in the program for instances of domestic violence.

Rep. Redd asked for clarification on an open child support case. Sen. Henderson clarified that the children would still qualify no matter the situation.

Rep. Tanner had a procedural question about voting for this motion and wondered if that means they bypass the prioritization process.

Sen. Henderson and Rep. Menlove discussed this proposal. Rep. Menlove replied that this allows the request to go on the list and does not fund it.

Sen. Henderson clarified that on item #4 it would be to create a study.

Rep. Cosgrove asked for clarification on whether the \$70,000 goes to ORS or to DWS. Sen. Henderson indicated the funds are for the Independent Study.

Sen. Christensen asked if this is not funded would it be the intention that they do a study within the department. Sen. Henderson replied that she would prefer an independent study.

**MOTION:** Rep. Menlove moved to approve placing Senator Henderson’s Motion sheet item #4 on the prioritization list.

Motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, and Sen. Vickers absent for the vote.

**6. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Cosgrove) – Dental Care Partnership**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002198.pdf>

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002201.pdf>

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002192.pdf>

Rep. Cosgrove reviewed the issue of dental disease in Utah's low income population and the effects of it.

Mauricio Agramont, Director, Midvale CBC Dental Clinic, spoke about the clinic project that works with volunteer dentists and the community. He presented the figures for savings.

Sen. Shiozawa thanked them for doing this and wondered about giving themselves enough credit for the savings.

Rep. Chavez – Houck dovetailed and asked for clarification on the importance of dental care and how that can also affect the heart and many other issues of health also.

Rep. Cosgrove reported about one center on one weekend and its effectiveness and also listed several areas of health that poor dental health can affect.

**8. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Cunningham) – Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Device Funding**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002207.pdf>

Rep. Cunningham reported on the success as well as the requests and would like to increase the number of those

Chris Evans, Fire Chief, Midvale City, suggested that there is tremendous support in the State and requests continue to come in.

Rep. Menlove stated there have been many of these placed at Utah State University and the effect is rippling out and many are being placed because of the awareness that has been raised.

**9. Request for Appropriation (Rep. King) - Tax Incentives for Homeless Employment**

Rep. King presented the information about businesses to receive tax credits if they hire individuals who are defined as "homeless" under a bill introduced previously. These are people in transition because of temporary homelessness. Previous asking was for \$150,000 and has been reduced to \$100,000.

**10. Request for Appropriations (Speaker Lockhart & Rep. Dee) – Salt Lake Children's Center**

John T. Nielsen, Member, Board of Trustees, the Children's Center, introduced Douglas Goldsmith, PhD., Executive Director, the Children's Center, who talked about the severity of issues of those who are being served by the Center and their conditions that will not allow them to be in a regular classroom. He also spoke about the importance of Early Intervention. Mr. Goldsmith requested ongoing funding for \$250,000.

Rep. Redd inquired about how many additional children will the funding assist and Dr. Goldsmith replied that it will assist 70 more children. Rep. Dee commented on the fact that he has observed the process at the Center and advocated for it.

Sen. Robles voiced that this is the only place that the children can go that will allow parents to work. Mr. Goldsmith indicated that this is not just for the children but for intense family therapy.

**11. Request for Appropriation (Speaker Lockhart) – Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Electronic Health Record**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002226.pdf>

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002229.pdf>

Speaker Lockhart began by introducing Richard Nance, Director, Utah County Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services, who requested an appropriation of \$105,850 to procure and implement a replacement electronic health record. He spoke about how the system they are using currently does not work for what they do and how they do it. He continued to expound on the needs.

**12. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Eliason) – Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Suicide (1) Prevention Training and (2) Materials**

Rep. Eliason introduced Rebecca Glathar, Executive Director, National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), and reviewed some statistics from materials handed out about suicide. Rep. Eliason explained that the money would be used to train the trainer for Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) which is mental health first aid for Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention and was asking for \$165,000 one-time and will come back to report next year on the success.

Rep. Cosgrove commented that the critical time is for someone to be there immediately.

Sen. Shiozawa stated that the number per day for him is about 5 and so Rep. Eliason statistic of 10 per day seems low. Sen. Shiozawa requested that Rep. Eliason elaborate on the location of the trainers and how they would be in the community.

Rebecca Glathar commented that currently there are no master trainers at the State level which has led to duplication of efforts. Funds are being spent at the local level but the desire is to bring this to the state level to have master trainers that could be disseminated throughout the state. Sen. Shiozawa requested information offline about how that would work with other

organizations.

### **13. Request for Appropriation (Sen. Okerlund) – Rural Health Clinic Escalante**

Sen. Okerlund presented the request for \$300,000 to build a new medical clinic in the town of Escalante to serve the needs of that isolated community. He stated that the County Commission will be contributing \$100,000. He continued to report on how equipment will be gathered. This funding would be used to finish the project.

Rep. Menlove asked him to return with specific information and Sen. Okerlund agreed to that.

### **14. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Barrus) – Facility Licensing**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002210.pdf>

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002213.pdf>

Rep. Barrus requested funding for 6 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) in the Bureau of Licensing for health facilities that do inspection for Health Facilities. He gave his own example of someone in an assisted living facility and shared information from that experience which resulted in this request for assistance.

### **15. Request for Appropriation (Rep. Redd) – increased funding for transportation for the (DSPD) for Individuals with Disabilities**

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00002238.pdf>

Rep. Redd introduced Charlie Luke, Executive Director, Utah Association of Community Services, and made the request of \$150,000 ongoing money for transportation of people with disabilities.

Mr. Luke presented more specifically what the funding would do for them by sharing specific figures.

### **16. Medicaid Provider Rates**

Michael Hales, MPA, Deputy Director, Department of Health, spoke about how reimbursement rates are different for each of the 30 types of providers. He gave examples of providers and how they are paid. Mr. Hales referred to the materials on the web. He referred to the Medicaid Physician Fee Index which compares other states and to the Medicaid to Medicare Physician Fee Index. He also looked at Utah Medicaid Pharmacy Rates comparing with Neighboring States' rates as well as Utah Medicaid Skilled Nursing Rates comparing with neighboring states' Medicaid rates.

Rep. Cosgrove asked about dentists not accepting Medicaid and providing services. Mr. Hales responded.

Russell Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst, responded to Rep. Cosgrove's question about those Medicaid providers for dental and referred to a brief with the figures on it.

Rep. Tanner commented that this seems overwhelming. Mr. Hales responded that this is a big issue. The physicians were not affected as much. One thing they have tried to do is to allow the ACO to grow in their reimbursement and find efficiencies in the system. He explained the payment reform that has been attempted.

Rep. Redd queried about whether the Committee prioritizes in the next two meetings and thanked those who have presented to help them make better decisions.

Rep. Menlove seconded that.

Sen. Christensen asked if money was found could it be passed through directly to the providers Mr. Hales responded.

Rep. Menlove reminded the Committee they will meet on Thursday at 8 am and 2 pm and that staff is available to answer questions.

**MOTION:** Sen. Roberts moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Menlove adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

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Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair

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Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove, Co-Chair