

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Refugee and Immigrant Center
155 S. 300 West. Salt Lake City, UT 84101
September 23, 2014 – Morning Meeting

Members Present: Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove, Co-Chair
Rep. Daniel McCay, House Vice Chair
Sen. Diedre M. Henderson
Sen. Peter. C. Knudson
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Rebecca Chavez –Houck
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Marc K. Roberts

Members Absent: Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair
President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Luz Robles
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Earl D. Tanner

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.

1. Call to order

Co-Chair Menlove called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Co-Chair Menlove welcomed everyone and thanked the Refugee Center for hosting the meeting. She stated that the approval of minutes would be postponed until there was a quorum present. The following committee members were asked to be excused: Sen. Christensen, Sen Robles, Sen. Vickers, and Rep. Tanner. Sen. Henderson joined the committee later on in the meeting following a previous commitment.

Ms. Lina Smith, Director of Refugee Services, Refugee and Immigrant Center, welcomed the committee and expressed her appreciation to the State of Utah for all that it does for refugees.

2. Background Check Systems Possible Consolidation

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004218.pdf>

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004458.pdf>

Mr. Frandsen introduced the report and summary of possible consolidation of background check systems.

Mr. Mark Brasher, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services (DHS), provided a summary of findings on background checks for each of the departments. He also discussed how the departments' systems work, the complexities and challenges they face especially with the possible expansion of background checks, and security issues related to identity theft.

Mr. Brasher also enumerated several possibilities and examples in the background check areas.

Dr. Marc Babitz, Division Director, Department of Health (DOH), indicated that their division has three programs and emphasized that the overall purpose of these programs is to protect people. He reviewed the three programs and covered the specifics of each as well as the benefits of each one. He also stated that once a person is in the system there are several places and ways to check on that person which is a good thing as far as keeping track of all people involved.

Rep. Ray asked a question about the wrap-back system which allows for other checks on a person dealing with convictions and/or charges. Dr. Babitz replied that the system picks up both charges and convictions on a person and that termination depends on the program they are using. Rep. Ray suggested that the perhaps some consolidation of programs may be a recommendation the Committee could look at.

Rep. Cosgrove requested an information update regarding background checks for child care.

Dr. Babitz indicated that the FBI checks that are being done as part of the application for child care is a national check and that aspect of the checks is working very well.

Co-Chair Menlove spoke about the fact that public education and higher education are also involved in background checks and wondered if they were being involved in this discussion. Mr. Brasher agreed that they are doing the checks and have not been involved in the discussion but perhaps ought to be included. Co-Chair Menlove suggested that perhaps staff should look at a comparative chart that indicates all the entities involved in background checks and their method of involvement.

Mr. Frandsen alluded to checks done in the public that includes a \$20 charge to use the Live Scan machines and that they are accessible to the public with that charge included.

Mr. John Woeste, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR), stated that they have been using the Live Scan system since 2004. They had approached the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and were offered the use of this system by USOE. He indicated that they were invited to use it and suggested that it seems that USOE would be willing to discuss the situation and become part of this process. Co-Chair Menlove put forth the idea that maybe in the future someone would want to investigate this further.

Rep. Ray suggested the idea of using a tier system with the premise that tier one would be a basic system and increase in complexity through the tiers to assist everyone in understanding how the system might work. Co-Chair Menlove suggested staff put together some information about different kinds of systems and then look at how that could be structured into something understandable.

Rep. Cosgrove indicated there is a similar discussion occurring in child care centers about the different levels of background checks depending on their specific function. Co-Chair Menlove suggested this issue be discussed further at the December meeting. Rep. Ray raised a concern if there is dismissal immediately and a charge against someone or if there is a wait time until there is a conviction might be an issue and perhaps there needs to be an examination of this.

Co-Chair Menlove agreed and also suggested that this be looked at in the education arena also.

3. Out-of-state and In-state Travel Costs

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004440.pdf>

Mr. Stephen Jardine presented the Issue Brief, "Travel Review of Costs." The brief includes travel costs and trends for the departments of Health, Human Services, Workforce Services, and Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) since the recession in FY 2007 to the present and the spending of General/Education Fund vs. total funds.

Rep. McKay requested to see information on expenditures from the departments and a comparison to see if these expenses are within a parameter that makes sense. He suggested a benchmark standard for these areas and asked that staff inquire about that and move this to the December meeting also. He also asked about information on budgets each year depending on the situation each year. Co-Chair Menlove asked for information on federally required travel and how that would be broken down and if there are grants available. She also inquired about standard operating procedures in each department and how the travel expenses and situations are handled.

Rep. Chavez-Houck requested information on whether departments pulled back on travel during the economic downturns when they knew other agencies might be affected by travel for education from other departments.

4. In-depth Budget Review Follow Up

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004221.pdf>

Mr. Frandsen and Mr. Jardine spoke to specific recommendations presented in last year's in-depth budget review on off-budget funds.

Co-Chair Menlove asked if anyone on the committee would be interested in opening a bill file so that a discussion could take place in December. Rep. Redd indicated that he would be willing to do that. There was no further discussion on these items.

5. Proposed Performance Measure for New State Funding

Staff Summary: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2013/pdf/00004200.pdf>

Health: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004210.pdf>

Human Services: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004253.pdf>

Workforce Services: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004205.pdf>

USOR: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004256.pdf>

Co-Chair Menlove reminded the committee about the purpose for performance measure accountability and funding. She requested that more effort be put forth into transparency of information for the constituents.

Mr. Frandsen referenced the document, "Summary of Performance Measures Submitted," and made suggestions about what the committee might want to consider going forward.

Co-Chair Menlove asked for further information looking at administration costs dealing with Telehealth being provided and asked for information of contracts being created with agencies providing services. She requested more transparency.

Rep. Cosgrove referred to access by veterans in rural areas to these services and asked this to be included in the discussion.

Mr. Michael Hales, Department of Health, replied that they would be happy to provide that information.

Mr. Jardine referenced the Grand Families performance measurement. And suggested the Committee asked for more information.

Co-Chair Menlove reminded the agencies that this will take place in December.

Rep. McCay requested a more detailed and specific performance measure using numeric values.

Ms. Ann Silverburg-Williamson, Executive Director, Department of Human Services (DHS), spoke to information about the Grand Families program.

6. Tour of the Refugee and Immigrant Center and the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

7. Unused General /Education Fund in Recent Fiscal Years

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004442.pdf>

Co-Chair Menlove complimented staff on identifying unspent funds. Mr. Frandsen stated the purpose for the review of unused funds and referred to the Issue Brief, "Unused Funds from Lapsing and Non-lapsing Balances."

There were no questions or comments.

8. Subcommittee Questions from the 2014 General Session

Co-Chair Menlove clarified what these questions were and stated that these were questions not completely addressed. This information was provided previously to the committee. There were no comments from the committee or audience.

9. Update Regarding Department of Workforce Services Audit Recommendations Including Customer Service

Staff Summary: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004429.pdf>

Audit: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004235/pdf>

Mr. Frandsen explained the purpose of the follow up document by the staff.

Mr. Jon Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), indicated he believed the DWS responses covered the concerns that come out of the work environment audit. He continued to talk about the pay for performance practice in the department. He talked about the concerns, some benchmarking and baseline marking changes that are being addressed. Co-Chair Menlove asked for more information on Customer Service and flyer distributed. Mr. Pierpont indicated the flyer gives a snapshot of the customer service provided. He also talked about employee satisfaction and morale. He stated that the University of Utah conducted the survey and valuable information was collected from that process.

Co-Chair Menlove asked if either Mr. Tim Osterstock, Audit Manager, or Ms. Leah Blevins, Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, had comments. There were none. She asked if anyone on the committee had concerns.

Rep. Cosgrove asked how for more information on the pay for performance results. Mr. Pierpont explained the results and process.

Sen. Weiler asked about employee morale and how it was being tracked. Mr. Pierpont supplied information regarding that issue. Ms. Blevins also supplied some response.

10. Report on Divisions and Programming Identified and Discussed during Legislative Session Including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004265.pdf>

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00003467.pdf>

Mr. Pierpont referred to the report given to the committee. He discussed the four purposes of TANF, forty-one building blocks, viability of TANF being used in Garland and Highland, measures around the programs funded, request of a waiver for programs that don't fit in the purposes of TANF, intent language for serving more families across the state and request for grants released in June. He discussed the 242 requests made and how those were reviewed and that 103 of those were funded.

Rep. McCay commented on the efforts made and asked what the overall strategy was and if that strategy was met.

Mr. Pierpont indicated that the core mission is employment and how barriers can be removed to allow that to happen. There was continuing discussion between Rep. McCay and Mr. Pierpont.

Rep. Cosgrove spoke of earned income tax credit and TANF funds. Mr. Pierpont replied that this has not been covered yet and discussion continued. Rep. Cosgrove indicated he would like that revisited in December.

Rep. Redd requested information on interventions and feedback about the services being provided. Mr. Pierpont suggested that happen in December when more time has passed.

Sen. Henderson asked a question about the Pregnancy Prevention program. Mr. Sisifo Taatiti related that it is more of an educational program for people.

Co-Chair Menlove commented on the efforts of TANF and thanked them for those efforts.

Rep. McCay commented on the Pregnancy Prevention Program and Rep. Menlove also asked if there are programs targeted to adults.

11. Medicaid Eligibility and Associated Costs

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00004476.pdf>

Mr. Frandsen referred to the Issue Brief, "Medicaid Eligibility and Associated Costs." He addressed the issue of costs increasing or not and then directed the committee to the chart, "Medicaid Eligibility General Fund Costs."

Rep. Redd commented on the decrease and asked why.

Mr. Geoff Landward, Deputy Director, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), indicated that there were several circumstances that contributed to that, specifically merging staff and the training necessary also hiring additional staff and increasing needs. The goal was always to reduce costs but maintain high quality standards. There was more discussion between Rep. Redd and Mr. Landward about what was happening in the program and about efficiency being used. Mr. Frandsen clarified some available information also.

Sen. Henderson asked about the decreasing trend and wondered if that might continue.

Mr. Frandsen referred next to the CHIP Eligibility General Fund Costs graph and discussed it. There was continued comment by Co-Chair Menlove, Mr. Landward and Rep. Redd.

Co-Chair Menlove asked if people were happy with this or if there is still work to be done. Mr. Landward and Dr. Patton confirmed that this was working.

Rep. Cosgrove asked about access for eligibility workers and how that was working. Mr. Landward indicated that the portability is working well and access is better for rural areas. Dr. David Patton also indicated that access had increased.

Co-Chair Menlove informed the committee that the afternoon meeting would be held in Room 30, House Building, at the State Capitol at 1:00 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson motioned to recess until 1:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Menlove recessed the meeting at 11:45 a.m.