Good morning Representative Menlove, Senator Christensen and honorable committee members, I’m Ann Silverberg Williamson, Executive Director of the Department of Human Services.

We understand the Executive Appropriations Committee motion to have a 98% starting point for Fiscal Year 2016 ongoing General Fund budgeting, so I thought it important to share how DHS considers less $7.9 million investment into the work of our mission.

Unsatisfied with the status quo, the Department of Human Services believes we can accomplish better results and do so with increasing efficiency through partnership, creativity, use of research, and strategic discipline.

DHS has set priorities that guide our practice as well as budgeting.

They are -

✓ To deliver coordinated care in the least restrictive, most community-based environments that meet safety and treatment needs

✓ To support the safety, care and self-reliance of people in their home, and

✓ To offer preventative and early intervention services that have evidence of long term benefit to people as well as a much greater return on taxpayer investment

We want the public dollar invested in what accomplishes these results; therefore, what detract from these outcomes will be the areas we evaluate for reductions. We’ll consider how to redirect existing funds from areas that have less positive evidence and we’ll ask ourselves “what do we stop doing?”

For example, the Department is scrutinizing -

▪ How to reduce reliance on high cost, long term stays in congregate care
• How to increase the recruitment and training for permanent homes particularly for youth in custody at an older age or who have been in custody more than two years

• How to increase in-home care and wrap around support for families to stay intact in their communities with less dependence on government intervention

• How to apply performance-based contracting and implement increased mutual accountability with private providers for results

• How to leverage year-end balances for investment in strategic one-time opportunities for preventative and early intervention services

• How to gain savings in time and money from operational and technology efficiencies across the DHS enterprise

I appreciate the opportunity to stay focused on our core mission and on course with a bold vision for productive change. Utah’s Department of Human Services is a recognized leader on many fronts and yet, we continuously recognize room for improvement.

Thank you.