

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room 30 West House Building, State Capitol Complex
February 10, 2015

Members Present: Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, Co-Chair
Rep. Edward H. Redd, House Vice Chair
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Earl D. Tanner
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Robert Spendlove
Rep. Raymond Ward

Members Excused:

Members Absent: President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Alvin B. Jackson

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

Sen. Christensen called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Unfinished Items from the Previous Agenda

None

2. Public Input

Danny Harris, Director of Advocacy, AARP Utah, spoke in support of funding for Aging Health Issues such as Meals on Wheels, Caregiver Support Program, Adult Protective Services, and the Aging Waiver.

Kathryn Jenkins, parent, Autism funding supporting the Pingree School; Alyson Eddie, parent, Cheryl Smith, parent, Leadership Team for the Autism Council of Utah; Christine Hopkins, parent, shared their experiences and spoke in support of funding for autism and early intervention.

Tammy Diaz, citizen, spoke of her experience on behalf of Traumatic Brain Injury funding, support of Vocational Rehabilitation, and increasing provider salaries.

Debbie Mayo, Executive Director, New Horizons Crisis Center; Member of Utah Domestic Violence Coalition; Penny Evans, Executive Director, New Hope Crisis Center; Sgt. Troy Liquin, Cache County Sheriff, Domestic Violence Shelter; Chief Greg Butler, Woods Cross City; Detective Adam Osoro; Michael Guthrie, citizen, Logan; Jill Anderson, Executive Director, CAPSA Nonprofit; Cindy Baldwin, Executive Director, The Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center, Cedar City; Anne Burkholder, CEO, YWCA; Tom Ross, Chief, Bountiful Police Department, representing Safe Harbor Board - each shared experiences as well as events and each spoke in support of funding for Priority 1, Priority 2 and/or the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) with comments and questions from the Committee members.

Andrew Riggle, Public Policy Advocate, the Disability Law Center, spoke in support of Medicaid funding within several areas of assistance. There was comment from Rep. Redd about the Medicaid match monies in regard to the mentally ill.

Lori Cerar, Executive Director, Allies with Families, Mental Health Early Intervention; Leif Oldert, Executive Director, Alliance House Utah, Local Mental Health, each presented statistics and information and spoke on behalf of Early Intervention and the needs for mental health support. There was a question from Rep. Redd about how many organizations there are across the state. Mr. Oldert shared the details from his perspective.

Vicki Clayson, parent; Joyce Dolcourt, advocate, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities; Alice Hirai, parent/advocate; Mandi Mosdell, client; Sam Salsone, parent; Karen Smith, parent; Carol Walker, Director of Public Relations for Clear Horizons; Dominick Jefferies, Director of Operations, Futures Through Choices; Mary Ann Johns, parent; Marc Christensen, Executive Director, Chrysalis; Jenny Faires, parent. Each shared experiences and requests and spoke in favor of an increase in the provider rates and also addressed the need for stability in community settings as well as the need for the lack of staff turnover.

9. State Developmental Center Dental Clinic Project (Request for Appropriation – Disabilities Dental Program) (Dayton)

#13 One-time State Funds Building Block List

Sen. Dayton introduced Dr. Dean Robinson, Developmental Center Dental Clinic Project, Featherstone Ridge, who introduced his project and used a power point presentation to show the purpose of it, who it serves, where it will be located and services provided as well as who will be the service providers. He referred to other clinics around the valley and indicated there are varying parameters for each clinic and the patients to be cared for. Dr. Robinson continued to present reasons to establish the clinic. He said that this request is for start-up of the clinic. He also emphasized that this clinic is specifically for those who are disabled.

Rep. Ray asked if there would be a Medicaid Match available. Dr. Robinson stated that as the clinic is started they would continue to look for funding and ways to cut expenses. He emphasized the need for a dentist who will be willing to build the clinic and staff the project.

Rep. Tanner mentioned the 4th and 4th clinic and asked if Dr. Robinson was familiar with that facility. Dr. Robinson stated that he was but the specificity of this new clinic is to take the disabled living with families or in group homes and have a dentist who is trained to handle them.

Sen. Dayton thanked Dr. Robinson for his continuing efforts.

3. Request for Appropriation – Eye Care 4 Kids Item (Rep. Edwards)

#51 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List
#15 One-time State Funds Building Block List

Rep. Edwards introduced Joseph G. Carbone, President, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Board Certified Optician at Eye Care 4 Kids, who explained how many individuals that the service has cared for. He continued to explain the need for the service and shared the information that there is a mobile unit that travels the state and that 100% of the funds would be used for the services. He expressed the opportunity to serve the kids and explained that the services come from school referrals. He referred to his budget and stated that this is an established program.

Sen. Christensen and Mr. Carbone clarified who would be served by Eye Care 4 Kids with Mr. Carbone.

4. Building Block Request – State Hospital – Restore Funding Loss Due to DOH Medicaid Allocation Method

#8 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Dallas Earnshaw, State Hospital Superintendent, requested replacement of Medicaid revenue lost at the State Hospital. He informed the Committee that because of allocation methods in Medicaid, funding has been lost and in order to continue services the funds need to be restored. He also stated that there would be 30 beds lost if funding is not restored. Mr. Earnshaw continued to explain the effect of no funding.

Rep. Redd made a comment for the Committee about the effects this has on community hospitals and the cost to transport individuals by ambulance.

5. Building Block Request – Forensic Competency Restoration

#18 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Mr. Earnshaw made the request for \$300,000 for the State Hospital to address Competency Restoration on the waiting list. He referred to the power point and stated statistics from it. He presented the restoration services that will help address the problem of the waiting list and slow down the need for building more State Hospital beds.

Sen. Christensen made a comment to clarify who the individuals are.

6. Building Block Request – Mental Health Early Intervention of Children/Youth; Adult Protective Services Staffing;

Doug Thomas, Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, gave a brief history of the funding of this item and a result of the outcomes using statistics from the presentation. He indicated that the number of families had increased and the average cost had dropped. He reported that the request was for \$1.5 million to maintain services for 2,500 children and their families. He stated there was a full report in the documents along with other information.

8. Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) Increase, Contract Monitoring

#7 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Mark Brasher, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services, reported on the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) adjustment which did not work in their favor this year causing a decrease in funding. Their request is for \$537,000, of which most is going to the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) with some going to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), the Division of Aging and Adult Services, and the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He explained that there is a history of adjustments.

Sen. Christensen stated that the history is that this has been mandatory unless we need to start cutting things which has not happened yet.

Sen. Christensen informed the Committee that the 2% cuts have been taken back and at the moment the items for a proposed cut are all back in the normal budget.

7. Building Block Requests – Medicaid Match for Local Authorities

#15 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Kyle Snow, Chief Executive Officer, Northeastern Counseling, presented the request which was \$6.4 million ongoing funds rather than one-time funding for the Local Authority Medicaid Match. He referenced the reason for the request and indicated that they are asking for an additional \$3.4 million, beyond the \$6.4 million, to meet the match requirement. He also shared the ways it would be distributed as well as the outcomes.

Rep. Tanner asked what the effect of adopting the Healthy Utah Plan would have on all the programs coming through and would it have an effect on this request? Mr. Snow stated these are people currently being served so it would not have an effect on these services but would have an effect on their other funding. He continued to explain. Doug Thomas, DSAMH, answered the question. There was continued conversation. Mr. Jardine, Fiscal Analyst, also offered figures to help explain the savings amount.

10. Building Block Request /Request for Appropriation – Direct Care Staff Salary Increase and DSPD Transportation Rate Increase (Sen. Weiler)

#6, 19 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Sen. Weiler introduced Charlie Luke, Executive Director, Utah Association of Community Services (UACS), who addressed the issue of high rate of turnover of staff which affects the services being delivered to people with disabilities. He referred to a document being distributed and the detail included in it. He contributed information about two major issues facing DSPD providers dealing with high turnover rate and low wages. He stated that their request is for \$5 million for each year for 3 years. He presented the reason for the request being structured this way. He indicated that these services are mandated and so the services will not be cut, but the low wages will affect the wait list with the inability to increase the staff. He also referenced that a request has been put in by Sen. Weiler for a one-time State Funds Building Block List #9. Sen. Weiler indicated the importance of the increased funding going to the providers that pick up the respite codes.

11. Building Block Request – Aging Nutrition and Aging Local Caregiver Support (Sen. Henderson)

#16 and 23 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Sen. Henderson introduced Kristy Cottrell, Director, Davis County Senior Services, who shared the benefits of support for their programs. She informed the Committee that these services are not funded through Medicare and Medicaid. She emphasized the importance of the funding being ongoing. Ms. Cottrell emphasized the support of caregivers and care receivers. She continued to provide information about programs available and their request.

Sen. Christensen asked where the money for support of caregivers would go. Ms. Cottrell referred to an itemized detailed budget that was distributed and shared information about where it would go. There was clarification about the number of people services were being requested for with regard to respite care.

Rep. Chavez-Houck commented about funding resources available in the communities.

12. Building Block Request – Mental Health Service Rates (Rep. Hollins)

#22 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Rep. Hollins introduced Eric Bjorklund, J.D., Utah Youth Village and Christina Zidow, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer of Odyssey House, and indicated that they were here to address a rate increase for DCFS private providers. Mr. Bjorklund presented information about who the private providers were and what they do. He explained the reason they were there and the current situation of children becoming wards of the state. He continued sharing information about the benefit of therapists along with their request for \$500,000 to assist in increasing the pay of therapists and being able to maintain them in the program. He contributed more information about our state providers in comparison with other providers as well as the need to support this.

Mr. Jardine asked for clarification for the Committee about the number on the green sheet which is \$621,000. Ms. Zidow explained the reason for the difference of the two numbers.

13. Provider COLA Issue Brief

The brief was not presented.

14. Building Block Request – 211 Information and Referral System at United Way (Sen. Weiler)

#35 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Sen. Weiler explained what 211 is and introduced Chiara Cameron, 2-1-1 Director, United Way. She shared how 211 can help and also her own experience with the death of her husband and how 211 benefited her. She explained how she was able to find support with the basic needs for her family. She requested \$550,000 ongoing in the areas to be focused on.

6. Building Block Request - Adult Protective Services

Nels Holmgren, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), clarified a request for DAAS for three additional adult protective services workers. He added details and information for the reason for the requests.

Rep. Chavez-Houck offered some information on the abuse of the aging in exploitation in the state. She encouraged funding for this item and appreciated the work being done.

15. Building Block Request – Marriage Commission (Rep. Redd)

#30 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Dr. Paul Schvaneveldt, Commission Chair, Marriage Commission, welcomed Melanie Reese, Statewide Coordinator and Jacqueline Leavitt, Founding Member, Utah Marriage Commission. He stated the purpose and goals of the Commission. He offered several statistics as support information.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked about the outcomes for individuals served. It was agreed to obtain the information offline.

20. Building Block Requests/Request for Appropriation (Eliason) – Case Managers for Chronically Homeless

#14 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Rep. Eliason presented a quote from Maslow's hierarchy, shared the issues of being homeless and made two requests for funding. He introduced Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate, spoke about the results of the funding according to the homeless receiving permanent housing including the importance of case management for those who get into housing. She stated some of the issues they have dealt with. She complimented the service providers. She explained progress she sees being made by the homeless and their issues. She emphasized the importance of case managers and those who help the homeless people overcome their issues as well as the positive results she has seen.

Sen. Christensen asked for an explanation of the difference in a smaller number of case managers being requested this year but the same amount of money is being requested. Ms. Atkinson addressed the complexity of issues being dealt with and the time required for quality management. Sen. Christensen requested more clarification. Ms. Atkinson responded with Rep. Eliason adding input.

21. Building Block Requests/Request for Appropriation (Eliason) – Permanent Supportive Housing

Rep. Eliason introduced Kerry Bate, Director, Salt Lake County Housing Authority, spoke regarding what funding for the Olene Walker Housing Fund can do. Rep. Eliason shared information about how the Fund has been recognized and its success. Mr. Bate offered information about the beginning of the Fund and shared statistics about it. He shared one example of a homeless veteran's success with the system.

Rep. Eliason commented about the shelter and two families he was familiar with. He closed with a quote.

23. Request for Appropriation – Office of Medical Examiner (Rep. Redd)

#56 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Rep. Redd introduced the issue of giving access to funeral homes to pick up bodies from the Medical Examiner's Office. He explained the current procedure for an unattended death or suspicious circumstances. Sen. Christensen asked for clarification on the hours for body pickup. There was continued discussion between Sen. Christensen, Rep. Redd and Dr. Todd Grey, Medical Examiner regarding the hours for pickup.

Candace Daly, Utah Funeral Directors, gave reason for the request of \$58,000 ongoing funding providing for three part-time clerks with no benefits.

16. Building Block Request - Domestic Violence Shelters (Rep. Redd)

#9 and 11 Ongoing State Funds Building Block List

Julee Smith, Executive Director, Your Community Connections (YCC) Center, Ogden, introduced Kendra Wyckoff, Executive Director, Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter, Davis County, represented thirteen nonprofit domestic violence victim service providers throughout Utah. Ms. Smith referred to those previously heard from who were partners and community providers as well as survivors of domestic violence. She acknowledged the critical need to support the providers. Ms. Wyckoff explained the services of the shelters. She explained the need for services and the increase for services that has taken place. She addressed two priorities which were: (1) \$393,500 to continue to fund emergency shelter services, (2) \$728,624 for new ongoing funding to support additional victim service costs to enhance a coordinated community response to domestic violence homicide risk and to use the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP). Ms. Wyckoff offered figures to substantiate the use of the LAP and the reason for increasing the use of this.

Sen. Christensen commented on the previous morning testimony about the LAP program.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

22. Workforce Services Fees – Issue Brief

Postponed until the next meeting.

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair

Rep. Paul Ray, Co-Chair