

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Tuesday , February 6, 2018 • 7:59 a.m. • 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Rep. Raymond P. Ward, House Vice Chair
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Todd Weiler
Sen. Brian Zehnder
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy

Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Norman K. Thurston

Members Absent:

Sen. Daniel Hemmert
President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell

Staff Present:

Ms. Alysha S. Gardner, Staff Economist
Ms. Paula Morgan, Committee Secretary
Mr. Russell T. Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Clare Tobin Lence, Fiscal Analyst

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Rep. Ray called the meeting to order at 8:08 AM

1 . Call to Order

2 . Public Input on Topics on Today's Agenda

Ryan Parker, Client Advocate, The Road Home

George Chapman, Advocate

Andrew Riggie, Advocate, Disability Law Center

Jennifer Wilburn, Marketing Director, Assisted Living Centers

Gina Pola-Money, Director, Utah Family Voices

Stacy Stout, Public Health Dental Hygienist Committee Chair, Utah Dental Hygiene Association

Karol Aldrich, Public Health Dental Hygienist, Smart Smile

Lisa Wilkinson, Public Health Dental Hygienist, Utah Dental Hygiene Association

Bernie Hart, Advocate, Understanding Us

Rep. Redd asked for clarification from Mr. Hart of what is done at the library.

Danny Harris, Director of Advocacy, AARP

Jody Lopez, Director, Dental Hygiene School, Utah Dental Hygiene Association

Deborah Dowd, Public Health Dental Hygienist, Utah Dental Hygiene Association

Shelly Costly, President, Utah Dental Hygiene Association

Carol Foster, Parent

3 . Cost of Full Medicaid Expansion

Rep. Ray introduced the topic.

Mary Mayhew, Consultant and former director of Health and Human Services for the State of Maine, shared data, statistics and information about Medicaid expansion coverage.

Sen. Christensen asked if there were any states that had accurately predicted requests for Medicaid growth. Ms. Mayhew responded.

Sen. Escamilla asked questions about the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) waiting lists and requested clarification. Ms. Mayhew responded and there was continued conversation for clarification. Sen. Escamilla asked about the measurement of outcomes given. Ms. Mayhew shared her view.

Sen. Escamilla spoke about cost of emergency room visits measurement. Ms. Mayhew explained how Maine handled the situation. Sen. Escamilla and Ms. Mayhew continued comment.

Rep. Ward asked why the United States is the only westernized country without health care for those in poverty and also about Maine's approval of the initiative in Maine's health care system. Ms. Mayhew explained Maine's situation and response to the situation in the United States.

Sen. Zehnder asked for comments on the forecasting possibilities for Utah and for advice on managing the underserved in Utah. Ms. Mayhew responded with information she would want to have. There was continued comment between Rep. Zehnder and Ms. Mayhew.

Rep. Chavez-Houck requested information about Maine's methodology in their research of the expansion situation in relation to the match rate and the control for the recession in 2008. Ms. Mayhew presented facts in relation to the question. Sen. Chavez-Houck asked about fee for service or assessments based performance measures. Ms. Mayhew responded. There was continued explanation.

Rep. Ray emphasized for the Committee that the DSPD is funded.

4 . Requests for Appropriation - Medicaid - Health

Rep Chavez-Houck presented the request for appropriation.

[7b-Restoration of Dental Benefit for Elderly Medicaid Recipients](#)

Beth Erhardt, President, Senior Charity Care, spoke in support of the request.

Jon Smith, Senior recipient of oral care services, Spoke in support of the appropriation request.

Rep. Kennedy asked about clarification of the requests' coverage. Ms. Chavez-Houck explained.

Sen. Christensen emphasized that there are three differing issues being addressed and that this request is to expand Medicaid to include all dental care.

Stacy Stout, Dental Hygieneist, explained that the increase would cover education and continued to explain the benefit and goals. There was continued comment from Rep. Kennedy.

Request for Reimbursing for the Medicaid Dental Code

Danyelle Evans, Delegate, Dental Hygienist, emphasized that daily oral care would be put in a daily plan for CNAs to administer.

Sen. Escamilla presented information for the request.

Anna Thomas, Senior Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children, spoke in favor of the request.

Stacy Stout, Dental Hygienist, presented information on what is being done currently.

Sen. Escamilla continued her presentation.

Sen. Christensen asked for clarification on the code request. Ms. Stout explained and there was continued discussion about the services from Ms. Stout, Sen. Escamilla and Sen. Christensen.

[7c1-Home Health for Medicaid Patients](#)

Rep. Acton presented the request for appropriation for home health for medicaid patients.

Brent Jones, President, Community Nursing Services, spoke in favor of the request.

Sen. Christensen requested explanation on how the nursing services stay afloat.

Rep. Ward asked if there is an adequate network of providers.

Nate Checketts, Health Department, responded with information about Home Health Care with comment from Rep. Ward.

[6d-12-Month Continuous Eligibility for Children on Medicaid](#)

Rep. Ward explained the request information.

Anna Thomas, Senior Policy Analyst, Voices for Utah Children, presented information on the request.

Sen. Christensen asked a question about eligibility and qualifications. Rep. Ward responded.

Rep. Redd asked again about qualifying coverage.

Nate Checketts Department of Health, responded to the question. There was continued discussion.

Dale Ownby, Division Director, Eligibility Services, Department of Workforce Services, clarified also.

Rep. Redd continued and Nate Checketts clarified about the time period involved to qualify.

5 . Operation Rio Grande

Ms. Alysha Gardner, Staff Economist, LFA, presented information on the Operation Rio Grande issue brief.

[9-Issue Brief - 2018 General Session - Operation Rio Grande Funding](#)

Nate McDonald, Communication Director, Department of Workforce Services, explained the dashboard in the Issue Brief which developed to show performance outcomes for the initiative.

Sen. Christensen. asked about prioritization and sustaining a top prioritization.

Speaker Hughes presented information to add context to the request about the program developed and the results of the short term plan developed to help the long term plan which led to Operation Rio Grande.

President Niederhauser emphasized that this is a transparent process and that transparency will continue to be important.

Sen. Christensen asked for assurance that the solution of the problem would not be to disperse the problem to other places.

Speaker Hughes suggested a response from Keith Squires, Department of Public Safety.

Keith Squires, Commissioner, Utah Dept of Public Safety, addressed the concern.

Rep. Ray added a comment.

Sen. Zehnder added a comment and compliment. He also added information about the concerns of people he represents.

Speaker Hughes responded to the concern about transitional housing issues.

President Niederhauser asked for clarification of the question of housing concern issue from Sen. Zehnder.

Rep. Zehnder replied and clarified the question. Sen. Niederhauser and Rep. Zehnder continued discussion.

Speaker Hughes continued and introduced Pamela Atkinson.

Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate, spoke about the successes of Operation Rio Grande and included information about those who have been homeless for a long period of time. She also shared information about other things being done and conveyed thanks to the Legislature from the homeless about what has been done so far.

Speaker Hughes clarified about the amount being requested. He introduced Mayor McAdams.

Mayor McAdams, Salt Lake County, reported on progress made with the program so far.

Sen. Christensen related support.

6 . 10:45 a.m. Requests for Appropriation - Hughes - UCOOP for Outreach, Diversion, and Partnerships to Support the Utah DEA360 Program - #AD on the gray sheet

Speaker Hughes introduced and explained the reason for the request for DEA 360 funding.

[10a-Overview - DEA 360 Strategy](#)

Brian Besser, District Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, introduced the concept of the program and explained details.

Rep. Ward asked for clarification of the one time vs ongoing funding. It was clarified by Speaker Hughes.

MOTION: Rep. Kennedy moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 AM.