

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 19, 2005 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. John W. "Bill" Hickman, Senate Chair
Rep. David N. Cox, House Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Mark W. Walker
Rep. Peggy Wallace

Members Absent:

Rep. Janice M. Fisher

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

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

1. Committee Business

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Rep. Fisher was excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to approve the minutes of September 21, 2005. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Eastman, Sen. Hickman, and Sen. Knudson absent for the vote.

2. Small Business Investment Fund

Rep. Brad King introduced and asked Mr. Karl Kraync, Rehabilitation Specialist, State Office of Rehabilitation, to report to the Committee on the SEUSBIF (South Eastern Utah Small Business Investment Fund) program. Rep. King spoke in support of the program.

Mr. Kraync, distributed two letters, "The University of Montana - Tom Seekins, Ph.D. Professor" and "Uintah County-Vernal, City Economic Development - Bill Johnson" strongly supporting the SEUSBIF program. Mr. Kraync explained the program and indicated not only has the program added new businesses and jobs to Eastern Utah, but it has also built a working partnership between public agencies and the private sector. He distributed a copy of the names of businesses involved in the program.

3. Report: Development Zones and the Granting of Partial Rebates of New State Revenues (Utah Code Section 63-38f-1706)

Mr. Martin Frey, Managing Director, Business Development, Governor's Office of Economic Development, distributed and reviewed handouts, "Corporate Recruiting and State Incentives" and "Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Annual Report to the Utah Legislature." He explained the office's plan for providing recruitment services and incentives to attract new businesses to Utah. He reported on the Business Development for Disadvantaged Rural Communities Grant Program that was established during the 2005 General Session by S.B. 57, sponsored by Sen. Knudson.

4. Report: Low and Moderate Income Housing and Assistance Provided to Local Governments (Utah Code Section 9-1204)

Mr. Gordon Walker, Director of Housing and Community Development, Department of Community and Culture, distributed and reviewed the report "Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund - Report to the Legislature FY05." He also distributed a video, "Better Housing for a Better Utah" for committee members to view. He noted that the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund Program partners with public and private organizations to create and preserve affordable housing for Utah's low-income community.

5. Child Care Payment Issues

A. Report: Resolving Discrepancies Regarding Child Care Delinquent Payment Records

Ms. Lynette Rasmussen, Office of Child Care, reported as requested in the July committee meeting. She noted there is room for improvement on both sides in working together to improve the process.

B. Expedited Child Care Services

Ms. Jami Momberger, Utah Private Child Care Association, explained that the Utah Private Child Care Association would like to see the following instigated by DWS (Department of Workforce Services): 1) waiver pilot program where parents receiving subsidies could sign a waiver to allow caseworkers to contact the respective child care provider about the case; 2) placement of DWS subsidy application packets in child care centers; and 3) an informal notification process of child care benefits.

Ms. Tani Downing, Executive Director, DWS, explained possible solutions for follow-up on child care payment records.

Ms. Deborah Tilley, Tilley Time, said the process for finding solutions to child care benefits has been moving along positively but explained that the system is difficult. She distributed handouts detailing parent concerns.

Ms. Jessica Cartagena, child care parent, expressed concern over communication with case workers.

6. Potential Legislation

Mr. Wilson briefed the Committee on the proposed legislation, "Employment Security Amendments" and "Unemployment Compensation - Social Security Offset" that was distributed in the mailing packet.

Mr. Bill Starks, Director, Unemployment Insurance, DWS, distributed and reviewed handouts of proposed amendments to the draft legislation, "Employment Security Act Amendments" and "Unemployment Compensation Social Security Offset."

MOTION: Sen. Hale moved to endorse and recommend draft legislation "Employment Security Amendments" and "Unemployment Compensation - Social Security Offset" as committee bills. Rep. Mascaro spoke in support of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Yvette Diaz, Director, DCC (Department of Community and Culture), and Ms. Allyson Isom, Deputy Director, DCC, distributed a packet of information "Department of Community and Culture 2006 Legislative Overview / Priorities." Ms. Isom reviewed six legislative priorities from the handouts.

Mr. Frey gave an overview of legislative issues related to economic development.

7. Response to Hurricane Katrina by the Department of Workforce Services

Ms. Downing distributed a handout "Utah Department of Workforce Services Activities Assisting Evacuees at Camp Williams" and reported on DWS assistance to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees housed at Camp Williams.

Mr. Kevin Knight, Governor's Office, gave a brief update on the Energy Office and indicated that legislation was not needed for the creation of an Energy Office within the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

8. Literacy and Math Skills of Family Employment Program (FEP) Clients

Ms. Karen Silver, Salt Lake Community Action Program, distributed a handout "Legislative Considerations" and reviewed intent language for the 2006 General Session.

9. Committee Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Sen. Eastman, Sen. Knudson, and Rep. Mascaro were absent for the vote.