

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, April 19, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W020 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, House Chair
Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Paul Ray

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Rep. Wayne A. Harper

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

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

1. Committee Business

Rep. Last called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Use of Epinephrine Auto-injectors

Rep. Todd Kiser explained that the proposed bill would authorize the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors in an emergency by a person certified by the Department of Health. He stated that if administered in a timely fashion, epinephrine can save lives.

Ms. Marni Puzey, citizen, told the Committee about the problems her family faces as a result of food allergies. She expressed the need for persons with a responsibility for others to be allowed to administer epinephrine.

Ms. Melanie Holland, citizen, distributed a written copy of her testimony. She also stressed the need for the proposed legislation.

Ms. Lisa Hardin-Reynolds, Girl Scouts of Utah, spoke in support of the legislation.

Mr. Mark Brinton, attorney for the UMA (Utah Medical Association), stated the UMA is supportive of what is being proposed. Medical specialty societies are also very interested in the issue.

3. Sunset Review of Acupuncture Licensing Act

Mr. Andrews reviewed statutory sunset guidelines with the Committee.

Ms. Noel Taxin, DOPL (Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing), distributed and discussed a fact sheet regarding the Acupuncture Licensure Act and a memorandum of her response to the sunset review questions in the act. It is DOPL's recommendation that the statute be reauthorized.

Sen. McCoy distributed a copy of draft legislation "Acupuncture Licensing Act Amendments."

Ms. Laura Poe, DOPL, pointed out that the profession is very well regulated and has a low number of complaints. Without state regulation, untrained individuals would be allowed to provide these services.

Ms. Kris Justesen, Utah Acupuncture Association, reviewed the changes proposed by the draft legislation, including modifying the definition of the practice of acupuncture and changing the designation of "acupuncturist" to "licensed acupuncturist."

Rep. Lockhart felt strongly that insurance companies be included in the discussions.

MOTION: Sen. McCoy moved to reauthorize the Acupuncture Licensure Act for an additional ten years. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Repeal of Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program

Mr. Don Beckwith, DOH (Department of Health), explained that the program provides educational loan repayment grants to health care professionals who agree to provide health care services to Utah's rural and medically underserved populations. He pointed out that the health care professional shortage is a very serious issue. He asked that the act not be repealed.

Mr. Glade Hamilton, Administrator of the Kolob Regional Care and Rehabilitation Center, Cedar City, addressed the adverse effect on the public if the program were to be terminated.

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to reauthorize the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program Act for an additional ten years. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Lockhart was absent for the vote.

5. Mental Health--Update from the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Mr. Mark Payne, Director, Division (Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health), distributed a copy of his slide presentation. In FY 2005 18,642 Utahns received substance abuse services and 42,480 received mental health services through Utah's public mental health and substance abuse system. Mr. Payne indicated that the system's capacity does not meet the need. He is working to coordinate the expenditure of mental health dollars between agencies.

Mr. Ron Stromberg, Division, stated mental health services are Medicaid-driven and those dollars are disappearing. The Association of Behavioral Health Directors have established a Futures Committee that is reviewing all aspects to determine if the system can be changed to be more effective.

Rep. Jones asked to receive an update on the progress of the Futures Committee in an upcoming meeting.

6. Interim Study Agenda

Members of the Committee requested that the following issues be studied during the interim:

- reports from the Insurance Department regarding dietary products for inborn metabolic errors and dependent coverage through age 25
- report from the Medicaid Interim Committee on its findings
- briefing on the Massachusetts model for health insurance
- impact and reduction of substance abuse
- small businesses health insurance coverage (this item will be coordinated with the Business and Labor Interim Committee)
- DSPD (Division of Services for People With a Disability) waiting list
- report from the Division of Child and Family Services on its implementation of recently enacted child protection legislation
- report on the perspective of the executive branch regarding the veto of 2006 H.B. 148, "Parent and Child Amendments"
- sunset reviews of the Aging Commission and the Foster Care Citizen Review Board

7. Other Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. McCoy moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.