

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, July 18, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 020 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. D. Chris Buttars, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Jon J. Greiner
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Phil Riesen

Members Absent:

Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Rosalind J. McGee
Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom

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

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Rep. McGee was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Fisher and Rep. Menlove were absent for the vote.

2. Federal Oversight of Utah's Child Welfare System

Mr. Vaughn updated the Committee on the recently approved settlement agreement to terminate federal court oversight of Utah's child welfare system. He said if the state complies with all requirements of the lawsuit, the case will be dismissed with prejudice at the end of 2008.

Ms. Lisa-Michele Church, Executive Director, Department of Human Services, indicated that the three things she needs in order to continue meeting the *David C.* exit requirements are legislative support regarding resource allocation, general community support for the mission of DCFS, and community and legislative support for child protection in the state. She introduced several high school interns who will be working with DCFS this summer.

3. Vaccines for Underinsured Children

Dr. David N. Sundwall, MD, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, distributed and discussed "Issue Fact Sheet - Health Insurance Coverage of Immunizations" and "Immunization Timing - Card and Fact Sheet." He noted that vaccinating people is the most cost-effective thing done in public health.

Dr. George Delavan, MD, Director, Division of Family and Community Services, Utah Department of Health, indicated the total cost of vaccines needed for the first five years of life is \$1,125. He explained the various ways in which vaccines are paid for and suggested several options for increasing payment for immunizations by health insurers.

Ms. Audrey Stevenson, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, pointed out that Utah well child exams, where immunizations are generally received, are below the national average. She said that health insurance copays for immunizations are often a barrier for those who are insured.

Dr. David Flinders, Utah Vaccine Advisory Committee, noted that physicians do not make a profit on vaccines. He said that by age one, a child should receive over 20 immunizations.

Mr. Kelly Atkinson, Utah Health Insurance Association, reported that preliminary data from a survey by the Utah Health Insurance Association show that deductibles for vaccinations do not exceed \$20 and are not a problem. The location where a person receives a vaccine may be a problem, as well as the wide variation in coverage offered by ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) exempt plans. Mr. Atkinson will provide a letter to the Committee on the subject prior to the next committee meeting.

4. Control and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Rep. Riesen discussed 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Control and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases" which was included in the mailing packet. He indicated that chlamydia is the number one reported disease in the state with gonorrhea being number four. If these diseases are left untreated they can cause sterility or other health problems.

Dr. Sundwall stated that if the draft legislation were approved by the Legislature, it would allow the Department of Health to do public education to help prevent these diseases. He noted that Utah still ranks lower than most states in these diseases. However, it is the trends that are alarming.

Mr. Gary Edwards, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, said that his department spends \$1.2 million annually to address sexually transmitted diseases in Salt Lake County, but that most of the money is for treatment and contact tracing. Most education is provided in clinics to persons who are already infected. He indicated that the funding requested in the draft legislation would significantly help the department provide education to high risk populations.

Ms. Rebecca Fronberg, HIV testing coordinator, Utah Department of Health, said the public education health curriculum includes a component for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV prevention, but the State Office of Education does not have funding to train teachers on this subject.

Rep. Dougall requested that the State Office of Education be asked to present in the future on this issue.

Ms. Teresa Hurst, social worker, Harm Reduction Project, distributed a written copy of her comments. She reviewed statistics for sexually transmitted diseases in the state. She urged the Committee to pass the draft legislation.

5. Pandemic Preparedness

Dr. Sundwall distributed "Governor's Taskforce for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness." He stated that the task force met six times between September 2006 and February 2007. He outlined the recommendations of the task force.

Mr. Doug Springmeyer, Assistant Attorney General, distributed a summary on pandemic preparedness. He reviewed Utah Code Section 63-5a-3 concerning disaster response and recovery. He noted that the issue is much broader than just public health. He discussed possible legislative action.

6. Autism

Dr. Sundwall discussed "Autism Fact Sheet." Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the U.S. In Utah, it is estimated that one out of every 133 children will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. A committee called the Utah Autism Initiative was formed this year to identify Utah-specific needs and existing services.

Dr. Harper Randall, MD, Utah Department of Health, explained that the Utah Autism Initiative was formed in response to the survey results distributed in February of 2007 by the Child Development Clinic. She outlined the responsibilities with which the committee has been tasked.

Ms. Cheryl Smith, President, Autism Council of Utah, said that her nine year old son Carson has been diagnosed with autism. She explained how the disease disrupts families. She showed a 12 minute DVD on autism and its effects on families and the health care system.

7. Other Business

Chair Buttars referred the Committee to the report from the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health which was included in the mailing packet.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Draxler was absent for the vote.

Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.