

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen, Senate Chair
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Karen W. Morgan

Members Absent:

Sen. Dan R. Eastman

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, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Mascaro called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Julie Fisher moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jones absent for the vote.

2. Affordable Housing - Factors Influencing Costs

Mr. Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director, Department of Community and Culture, and Mr. Gordon Walker, Director, Division of Housing and Community Development, reported on affordable housing. Mr. DePaulis gave a brief overview on affordable housing available in Utah, and noted the crisis in affordable housing due to rising housing costs.

Mr. Walker reviewed specific factors that are influencing the increasing costs for affordable housing. He discussed what actions the Legislature might consider to address housing cost increases.

Ms. Jodi Hoffman, Land Use Consultant, Utah League of Cities and Towns, discussed the cost of homes and regulations on affordable housing in the Park City and Deer Valley area. She provided a definition of affordable housing and noted it should not be defined by density.

Mr. Taz Biesinger, Executive Vice President, Utah Home Builders Association, commented on the high cost of land and homes, and the need for affordable housing.

Mr. Chris Sloan, Utah Association of Realtors, expressed concern with the high price of homes throughout the state, and questioned where future generations will live if there is not affordable housing available in the state.

3. Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care - Regulation Issues

Ms. Lynette Rasmussen, Director, Office of Child Care, DWS (Department of Workforce Services), gave an overview on DWS's regulation of FFN (family, friend, or neighbor) child care providers. She expressed concern with the falsifying of registration forms by some FFN child care providers and the lack of statutory controls to ensure that program integrity is maintained. She discussed the option of giving DWS statutory authority to manage background checks for FFN child care providers.

MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to direct staff to work with Ms. Rasmussen to draft legislation on the issue of background checks for FFN child care providers, and to bring the draft back for consideration at the next meeting. The motion failed with Sen. Madsen, Rep. Mascaro, Rep. Dunnigan, Rep. Janice Fisher, Rep. Julie Fisher, and Rep. Herrod voting in favor. Sen. Jones was absent for the vote.

4. Report: Governor's Rural Partnership Board

Rep. Bud Bowman, Co-chair, Rural Development Legislative Liaison Committee, noted that the Rural Development Legislative Liaison Committee met on October 16, 2007 to discuss rural development programs in Utah. He introduced Mr. Wes Curtis, member of the Governor's Rural Partnership Board, who presented the report.

Mr. Curtis reviewed an annual report from the Governor's Rural Partnership Board regarding economic development programs in the state's rural areas.

5. Governor's Office of Economic Development - Recommendations for Legislation

Mr. Jason Perry, Executive Director, GOED (Governor's Office of Economic Development), announced that Procter & Gamble will invest approximately \$300 million to build a manufacturing facility in the Tremonton area. The facility will initially have 300 employees, and is projected to employ as many as 1,000 workers within the next several years.

Mr. Wilson referred to the 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Community and Economic Development Technical Changes," which was distributed in the mailing packet. He noted GOED had not had an opportunity to review the newly received additions to the draft, and it was recommended to bring the modified draft back at the November committee meeting.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

The Committee received the report, "Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund Annual Report to the Utah State Legislature 2007," submitted by the Utah Division of Housing and Community Development, Utah Department of Community and Culture.

MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jones, Rep. Dunnigan, and Rep. Julie Fisher were absent for the vote.

Chair Mascaro adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.