

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 18, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – Room C250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Steven R. Mascaro, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen, Senate Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Rep. James A. Dunnigan

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 9:14 a.m. Sen. Fife, Sen. Madsen, and Rep. Dunnigan were excused from attending the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Identity Theft

Mr. Hunsaker noted there were two parts to this agenda item. First, an update on the security measures that have been put in place by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) for the prevention of identity theft. Second, an update on how the department is implementing 2007 General Session S.B. 15, "Workforce Services - Reporting Misuse of Personal Identifying Information."

Sen. Jones requested an update from DWS on the legality of random drug testing of DWS employees for the August committee meeting.

Mr. John Pierpont, Regional Director, Central Region, DWS, distributed and reviewed the handout, "Utah Department of Workforce Services Customer Information Security Update" that explained the several methods the Department is using to detect fraud or signs of potential security breaches, prevent or minimize the risk of ID theft, and reinforce the confidentiality of customer information.

Mr. Michael Medley, Legal Counsel, DWS, distributed and reviewed "DWS Implementation of S.B. 15." He gave an update on the implementation of S.B. 15 and explained the criteria used for selecting warning notice letters.

3. Report: New Refugee Services Office Created in the Department of Workforce Services

Mr. Palmer Depaulis, Executive Director, Department of Community and Culture (DCC), explained how DCC will be working with the Office of Refugee Services.

Mr. Gerald Brown, Director, Office of Refugee Services Office, explained the Office's mission and use of volunteers.

4. Training Utah's Workforce to Fill Available Jobs

Mr. Jason Perry, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), introduced the agenda item and presenters for this issue and distributed a packet of information, "Utah Life Elevated." He noted that Utah has a low unemployment rate and high level of employment growth.

Mr. Steve Maas, Director, Division of Workforce Information, DWS, distributed a copy of the presentation and gave an overview on, "Training Utah's Workforce to Fill Available Jobs." The presentation reported on Utah's unemployment rate, employment growth rate, and comparative wages and salaries.

Mr. Mike Richardson, DWS, distributed and reviewed the handout, "Utah's Employment Situation: May 2008."

Mr. Rich Thorn, President/CEO, Utah Associated General Contractors, discussed Utah's training trends and industry issues. He distributed handouts, "Trendlines - Perspectives on Utah's Economy," "Utah Job Trends: Statewide Occupational Outlook," and "Occupational Information."

Mr. Gary Harter, Managing Director, GOED, discussed innovative educational programs in Utah.

Mr. Clark Caras, Director of Marketing, GOED, discussed Utah's recruitment initiative.

5. Affordable Workforce Housing

Mr. Depaulis introduced this agenda item and noted that with the high growth rate in Utah there is great need for affordable housing for Utah.

Mr. Gordon Walker, Director, Division of Housing and Community Development, distributed a copy and gave a presentation on, "Affordable Housing in Utah." He gave the Division's perspective on affordable housing, reported on Utah's affordable housing profile and status, and reviewed the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund.

Ms. Wendy Holloway, Senior Vice President, Utah Bankers Association, noted the Utah Bankers Association shares an interest in this issue.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Mascaro adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.