

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, November 19, 2013 – 4:00 p.m. – Room 450 Capitol Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Chair  
Sen. Deidre Henderson  
Sen. Luz Robles  
Sen. Evan J. Vickers  
Sen. Todd Weiler

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Mark Andrews, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Cathy Dupont, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Lori Rammell, 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. He introduced the committee and welcomed the nominee and others in attendance.

**2. Overview of Committee Duties**

Chair Christensen presented an overview of the committee's duties, including reviewing the resume and qualifications of any person nominated by the governor for appointment to a board or agency within its jurisdiction. He stated that the committee would be considering Governor Gary R. Herbert's nomination of Ann Silverberg Williamson to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services and would recommend whether the Senate should confirm her appointment. He reviewed the duties, outlined in statute, of the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services.

**3. Consideration of the Nominee**

Ms. Ann Silverberg Williamson thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve the state in the capacity of Executive Director of the Department of Human Services. She reviewed the charge of the Department of Human Services, specifically that of serving individuals in need while answering to the state's taxpayers. She responded to questions regarding her experience from both the governmental and nonprofit sides of human services. She said these experiences have given her a greater appreciation for the importance of community and private partners in working toward solutions. Then she discussed the importance of measurable results from these private partners.

Ms. Williamson addressed the issue of uncertain sustainability and her experience with a nonprofit corporation during a difficult economic time. She said the question must be, "What is essential? What is core?" She said she sees as her biggest challenge in this new position the difficult choices that will seem to put at odds the department's commitment to the most ideal quality of life with resource decisions. She discussed, for example, children from broken homes who consequently have difficulty focusing in school. She said she has a passion and experience for early childhood education, and she looks forward to working with leaders in education, transportation, and other diverse fields to create sustainable solutions that involve families.

She addressed the inclusion of mental health in the Department of Human Services and discussed cultural competency. She said the most important element is listening to the community to learn how to deliver more effective services to the disabled population, the minority population, and others.

Ms. Williamson discussed Utah's reputation for strict financial management, and stated that she would balance need and budget by collectively, as a team with a common mission, establishing priorities. She said she is prepared for the political pressures of the position and invites every lawmaker to share with her their passions and priorities.

**MOTION:** Sen. Weiler moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Ms. Ann Silverberg Williamson be confirmed as Executive Director of the Department of Human Services. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Adjourn**

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

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.