

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room 30 West House Building, State Capitol Complex
January 30, 2014 a.m.

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove, Co-Chair
Rep. Daniel McCay,,House Vice Chair
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson
Sen. Luz Robles
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Earl D. Tanner

Members Absent:

President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Paul Ray
Sen. Peter C. Knudson

Staff Present:

Mr. Russell T. Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Stephen C. Jardine, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Paula Winter, Secretary

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

1. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

2. Department of Human Services' Child and Family Services Base Budget

Stephen Jardine, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the information available online.

Rep. Menlove requested that the agency review the amount of funds that are going for transition of youth out of foster care.

Brent Platt, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, explained about the number of children in foster care and the effort to keep children with their families.

Rep. Menlove asked if there is enough funding in the area of transition of youth into adult living.

Mr. Platt replied that they could use more flexibility with roll-over savings. They would like to have money to hire mentors for children aging out of foster care on an on-going basis.

Sen Christensen voiced concern that the carry-forward fund that was being used for the children who were aging out is now being used for one-time respite services. Ann Williamson, Department of Human Services, responded by referring to the non-lapsing, carry forward fund, stating that there has not been a shift in funding and this issue would be discussed later.

2. a. Human Services – Required Reports by Statute – Issue Brief

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001411.pdf>

Stephen Jardine, Fiscal Analyst reviewed the Brief.

Brent Platt, (DCFS) stated that overall the division did very well with their qualitative case reviews. He referred to the western region where the results of the review dropped significantly. The Office of Services Review completed a supplemental review to help remedy the problem.

b. Funding reductions and revenue options

Mr. Jardine, related the following information.

Revenue Options and Funding Exchanges List:

- (1) **#13 - \$236,900 one-time** - Replace General Fund with the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant (Federal Funds)

Funding Reduction Options List:

- (1) **#6 (Correction from entry on current list) - \$500,000 one-time and \$500,000 ongoing** – Use \$500,000 one-time and \$500,000 ongoing from the DCFS Beginning Nonlapsing Balance of \$5,690,500.

[Consensus Funding Reduction Items - 2014
\(http://www.le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000667.pdf\)](http://www.le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000667.pdf)

[Funding Reduction Options - 2014
\(http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000678.pdf\)](http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000678.pdf)

[Revenue Options and Funding Exchanges - 2014
\(http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000702.pdf\)](http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000702.pdf)

[2014 - Motions for Subcommittee Consideration
\(http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000631.pdf\)](http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00000631.pdf)

c. Expenditure trends that may be of interest

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001106.pdf>

Mr. Jardine, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the information available online.

Rep. Cosgrove requested a response from the department on caseload growth. Brent Platt replied that the caseloads were from 12-15. The caseloads are manageable because of the ability to hire ahead.

d. Other state funds

i. Children's Account – 5 Year History:

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001478.pdf>

ii. Victims of Domestic Violence Service Account – 5 Year History:

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001481.pdf>

e. Information Technology Projects

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001112.pdf>

1) FY 2014 SAFE - \$3,141,000 estimated project cost (\$196,000 estimated annual operation/maintenance costs)

f. DCFS SAFE System Modernization – Issue Brief

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001396.pdf>

g. Federal funds in the Department of Human Services – Issue Brief

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001176.pdf>

Brent Platt, Director, Division of Child and Family Services responded to the agency explanation of Federal Reserve funds over three months and stated that the use is measured out for the best use.

j. Three proposed Performance Measures to include in Appropriations Acts via Intent Language

Mr. Platt reported on the three performance measures:

- (1) Qualitative Case Review – Mr. Platt explained how cases are reviewed in the system.
- (2) Recidivism – Currently there is a 6% rate of repeat investigation within six months. Mr. Platt feels that this is a good measure of the services that are offered.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked how the State Safe System works and performs.

Mr. Platt answered that the focus of the Safe System is to make sure that the case workers are reviewing the history of the families. By constantly looking at and reviewing cases internally families will be less likely to slip through the cracks.

Rep. Tanner stated that there is a concern that the parents have a say in the review process and how are they involved.

Mr. Platt stated that parents are involved and are asked if they are satisfied and served properly.

(3) Reunifying with parents within twelve months. In Utah, 46% of children are reunified with parents within 12 months.

There was a conversation in the committee as to the percent unified and about changing the number in the motion to a 43% as a target performance measure.

Sen Christensen suggested throwing out that measure because it is difficult to measure and may be ambiguous. Suggestions were also made to change the wording to make it more transparent but keeping the measure. Sen. Henderson wants to be sure to connect numbers taken out of home to numbers that are unified with family. Rep. Tanner voiced his concern about how the system is working and how to measure the numbers that tell the real story and not the perceived story. Modification of that wording was suggested. Rep. Chavez–Houck emphasized that the goal is to give resources for families to be healthy and not just the number.

1. Domestic Violence Services – Issue Brief

<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001399.pdf>

Stephen Jardine, Fiscal Analyst stated that the summary gives information on the responsibility of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to provide services for victims.

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to approve the following motions for the Department of Human Services: Division of Child and Family Services line item from the sheet entitled “Social Services Subcommittee – Motions for Subcommittee Consideration: dated 1/24/2014 12:47 PM: 1C, 3AA, 4C, and 9N as language is amended.

Rep. McCay and Sen. Christensen conversed about the concern of lapsing and non-lapsing funds and requested clarification. Mr. Jardine presented a history of these types of funds. Rep. McCay expressed a desire to have good stewardship over the funds.

Rep. Tanner requested a review of 3AA and 4C before voting on the motion proposed. Mr. Jardine reviewed and explained the motions.

Rep. Menlove contributed information from her personal experience to explain the benefits of non-lapsing funds and how they may allow for continuing progress without having to request more funds.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, Sen. Robles, Sen. Shiozawa, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Ray absent for the vote.

Rep. Redd proposed that during interim this committee spend a few hours reviewing cases with DCFS to understand more fully the system and what they are dealing with. Rep. Redd would like to make a motion to do that. Sen. Christensen stated that the motion would be considered for the interim session. Sen. Menlove supported Sen. Redd on the issue.

3. Department of Human Services’ Office of Recovery Services (ORS) Base Budget

a. Funding reductions and revenue options

Mr. Jardine explained fees found on the funding reduction sheets. A discussion followed.

Sen. Henderson brought up the issue that non-custodial and custodial parents who are supposed to be paying child support or receiving child support are not currently required to establish a child support case before qualifying for food stamps. There is a federal regulation that Utah must choose to implement child support in the food stamp arena. If this choice was implemented, the case load in ORS would be significantly increased. She would like to discuss discuss this issue before the subcommittee.

Liesa Stockdale, Director of the Office of Recovery Services, stated that she agrees with the concept but that currently the system, as it currently exists, could not handle that caseload increase. There is currently a caseload of 860 per caseworker. With the increase it is calculated that ORS would require another 38 caseworkers – a 2.4 million ongoing cost. There continued to be a discussion of the food stamp issue and parents taking care of their children. Also, the issue of having to rebuild the computer system to incorporate these possible changes was discussed. The discussion continued on the pros and cons of implementing this policy.

Mr. Jardine referred to the document from ORS which reviews the fees set currently and the recommendation of assessing a set payment for all parties.

Mr. Jardine moved on to the Expenditure Trends that may be of interest.

Liesa Stockdale presented:

Three proposed performance measures to include in Appropriations Acts via intent language:

1. Overall collection totals for the ORS
2. Overall collection totals for child support
3. Cost effectiveness ratio for ORS as an agency

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to approve the following motions for the Department of Human Services' Office of Recovery Services line from the sheet entitled "Social Services Subcommittee – Motions for Subcommittee Consideration" dated 1/24/2013/12:47 PM: item 1C and 9M.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, Sen. Shiozawa, Sen. Vickers, Rep. McCay, Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Ray absent for the vote.

4. Department of Human Services' Executive Director Operations Base Budget

a. Human Services - Required Reports by Statute – Issue Brief

- b. Funding reductions and revenue options

Executive Director Operations – Performance Measures Issue Brief

- a. Expenditure/Revenue trends that may be of interest
<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001106.pdf>
 - 1) ORS total expenditures down by 27% from FY 2009 through FY 2014 (\$50.3 million down to \$37.0 million), 2) State General Fund down by 15% from FY 2009 through FY 2014 (\$15.0 million down to \$12.7 million), 3) Federal Funds down by 23% from FY 2012 through FY 2014 (\$24.1 million down to \$18.5 million - a technical change - see motions), 4) Personnel Services (staff costs) decreased by 36% from FY 2009 to FY 2014 (\$32.3 million down to \$20.7 million)

- d. Performance Measure Trends
<http://le.utah.gov/interim/2014/pdf/00001414.pdf>
Mr. Jardine suggested looking at the following trends:
 - 1) **Measure #6** – Attorney General Contract – **Year end caseloads for legal support required to set up and enforce the mechanisms for child support (+24%)**
 - 2) **Measure #10** – Attorney General Contract – **Medical collections: Total collections for torts, probate, health claims (+18%)**
 - 3) **Measures #9** – Attorney General Contract – **amount of child support collected by criminal non-support staff (-10%)**
 - 4) **Measures #5** – Children in Care Collections – **State Hospital collections from insurance (-28%)**

Brad McGarry, Director, Office of Services Review, spoke about the numbers that were presented. He stated that the numbers are low because they were missing some data.

Mark Brasher, Executive Deputy Director, Human Services, addressed the top three performance indicators:

- 1) Licensing - completed within 30 days.
- 2) Fiscal Issues Report
- 3) Office of Services Review

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to approve the following motions for the Department of Human Services' Executive Director Operations line item from the sheet entitled "Social Services Subcommittee – Motions for Subcommittee Consideration" dated 1/24/2014 12:47 PM: item 1C and 9J

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, President Niederhauser, Sen. Shiozawa, Rep. McCay, Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Ray absent for the vote.

Julee Smith, Executive Director of Your Community Connections Family Crisis Center in Ogden, spoke in support of funding a building block for Domestic Violence shelters. She shared examples of cases that were successful.

Sen. Christensen questioned the capacity of the shelter. Julee responded that currently there is a

capacity of 31 and will double when completed when the shelter is completed in June. Security is being increased currently also. Often capacity is maximized and some must be turned away.

Rep. Tanner asked Ms. Smith to specify where increased funding would help.

Ms. Smith replied that currently the focus is on intervention because that is all they have the funding for. In the future they would like to also focus on prevention. The program is “limping along” but they are doing an amazing job with the amount of money they have. If there was solid state funding that would free up time to work with families to help them understand good relationships rather than crisis intervention.

Sen. Christensen inquired what percent of the budget comes from the state support versus private support. Ms. Smith stated 5% of their funds are provided by the state. Currently there are 13 state supported domestic violence shelters.

Sen. Robles clarified that most shelters are private and emphasized the lack of funding for prevention and that it is the responsibility of the state to provide safety-nets for families and children.

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair

Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove, Co-Chair