

**MINUTES OF THE  
CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PANEL**  
Tuesday, May 20, 2003 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 416 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dan R. Eastman, Senate Chair  
Rep. Mike Thompson, House Chair  
Rep. David Litvak  
Rep. Steven R. Mascaró

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Stacey M. Snyder, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Gene Davis

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Alicia Laughlin, at 538-1032.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. He introduced the panel members and staff. He excused Sen. Davis from the meeting.

**MOTION:** Rep. Litvak moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Snyder referred to the document in the packet that explains the duties and authority of the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel. She invited the panel members to review it and call her if they have questions.

Mr. Andrews reviewed and answered questions regarding the major players in Utah's child welfare system.

**2. Federal Court Oversight**

Mr. Alain Balmanno, Assistant Attorney General, Litigation Division, Office of the Attorney General, joined by Mr. Richard Anderson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Human Services, reviewed the Annual Compliance Report as prepared by the Court Monitor, including the progress of the Performance Milestone Plan. He explained the stipulation filed with the United States District Court and noted the state's goal to exit court oversight as soon as possible through more conciliatory negotiations.

**3. Federal Department of Health and Human Services Oversight**

Ms Linda Wininger, DCFS (Division of Child and Family Services), joined by Adam Trupp, DCFS, discussed the new federal Child and Family Services Review conducted at the end of April, 2003, and results of the review. She addressed Utah's strengths and areas for improvement.

Mr. Trupp explained that lots of the federal standards are difficult to meet because they sometimes conflict with each other.

#### **4. Appropriation for New Employees**

Mr. Anderson reported on the hiring, training, and expected impact of the 53 additional employees within the Division. He indicated that the effect of the new hires on DCFS' capacity will not be felt until next summer. Turnover is down to 16 percent.

#### **5. Other Items**

Chair Eastman indicated that the proposed meeting schedule would be discussed at the next meeting when all members of the Panel are present. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2003.

Mr. Andrews referred to the reports in the mailing packet. He explained that as a result of legislation passed in the 2003 General Session, the Auditor General will now review the child welfare system once every three years rather than annually. However, additional audits can be requested at any time.

The Panel members suggested potential interim study topics as follows:

- Consider the impact of eliminating ad hoc committees within the Department of Human Services.
- Review how the child welfare system is responding to increased diversity in the state.
- Study how to improve compensation for DCFS caseworkers.

The Panel asked to staff to follow up on implementation of legislation passed during the 2003 General Session.

#### **6. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.  
Chair Eastman adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.