

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 18, 2003 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 129 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Thompson, House Chair
Sen. James M. Evans
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Paula F. Julander
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Calvin G. Bird
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Craig Frank
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Brad Last
Rep. David Litvack

Rep. Rebecca Lockhart
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot

Members Absent:

Rep. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Jack A. Seitz

Staff Present:

Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Stacey M. Snyder, Associate General Counsel
Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

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, Joy Miller, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:15. Rep. Peterson and Rep. Seitz were excused from the meeting. He acknowledged Rep. Craig Frank as a new member of the Committee. Chair Thompson also indicated that with the retirement of Sen. Steele, a new Senate cochair will be appointed. He expressed his appreciation for Sen. Steele's many years of service in the Legislature.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the revised minutes of the May 21, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Evans, Sen. Julander, Rep. Litvack, Rep. Lockhart, and Rep. Philpot were absent for the vote.

2. Human Services Safety Net

Mr. Mark Andrews discussed what is referred to as the human services safety net. It is a web of public and private agencies that are funded from various income streams designed to catch those in different situations such as the homeless, unemployed, low income, uninsured, and uninsurable.

Ms. Sarah Brenna, Department of Workforce Services, discussed the core safety net services provided by the Department which include the Family Employment Program, the Child Care and Development Fund, and the Food Stamp Program. She briefly reviewed the state funded General Assistance Program.

Sen. Jenkins asked Ms. Brenna to provide information on how many people, when finished with the General Assistance Program, are falling between the cracks. He also asked for the costs of administering the program.

Mr. Chad Westover, DOH (Department of Health), discussed the Covered at Work Program which is an amendment to the Primary Care Network. The program would offer \$50 per month to individuals to help

subsidize their health insurance premium.

Sen. Evans requested Mr. Westover to provide the Committee with information on what the costs would be for an increased level of funding and asked that the Committee consider that possibility.

Ms. Laticia Medina, Department of Community and Economic Development, distributed information on the CSBG (Community Services Block Grant). CSBG is a federal antipoverty grant which funds the operations of a state administered network of 11 local agencies that create, coordinate, and deliver programs that serve low-income families and individuals. She said that ending poverty and homelessness needs to be recognized as a priority by the Legislature and the state.

Ms. Lisa Nichols, President, Association of Utah Community Health, distributed handouts "Community Health Centers in Utah: A Vital Part of the Health Care Safety Net" and "Medicaid Funding Priorities for 2003-04." There are currently 13 community health centers in the state designed to serve those who are medically underserved. She reviewed the impacts of recent legislative actions and outlined their future plans. She distributed a booklet "2002 Annual Review of Utah's Community-Based Health Centers."

Mr. Michael Deily, Director, Division of Health Care Financing, pointed out that those who receive Medicaid, Medicare, and CHIP are considered to be insured. The 9 percent estimated by the DOH to be uninsured includes those who have no public or private insurance. They may have access to insurance but either choose not to participate or cannot afford it.

Sen. Evans requested Mr. Deily provide the Committee with specific recommendations to solve the problem of the uninsured. He also asked if information could be provided to the Committee to determine if these services are being coordinated among state agencies or the private sector.

Ms. Toni Marie Sutliff, Samaritan Counseling Center, said services could be provided more efficiently if there were better communication between these agencies. She asked that those entities providing a safety net without the help of any government funding be allowed to participate in the process.

Ms. Betty Viera, Director, Association for Utah Community Health, pointed out that community health centers are private, nonprofit corporations. There are a number of relationships that help them to extend services through the health centers.

Mr. James Whear, Chief Operating Officer, VMH (Valley Mental Health), distributed a chart "State Funding Compared to Medicaid Match." He said VMH is reaching a critical point where it is not able to provide services that are needed and required by those who are severely mentally ill but may not be on Medicaid.

Mr. Patrick Fleming, Executive Director, Division of Substance Abuse Services - Salt Lake County, distributed a handout "Drug Use Among Women in Utah." He said Methamphetamine use among women is higher than with men. He reviewed the cost of typical women's treatment scenarios. He stressed the need to provide enhanced family treatment programs for women and their dependent children.

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3. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Mascaro moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.