

**MINUTES OF THE
WORKFORCE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 18, 2005 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. John W. "Bill" Hickman, Senate Chair
Rep. David N. Cox, House Chair
Sen. Dan R. Eastman
Sen. Karen Hale
Rep. Janice M. Fisher
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Mark W. Walker
Rep. Peggy Wallace

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson

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 and a copy of related materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Glenda Whitney, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Mascaro moved to approve the minutes of April 20, 2005. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Eastman, Sen. Hale, and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the tourism legislation that was passed at the April Special Session.

Rep. Wallace distributed a handout from Ms. Leigh Von Der Esch, Director, Utah Office of Tourism, "Motion Picture Association of American, Inc. 2005 State-by-State Tax Incentives for the Film Industry." Rep. Wallace noted this information was requested by the Committee at its April meeting.

2. Covered-At-Work Program

Chair Cox noted that the Committee will study raising the premium subsidy for the Covered-At-Work Program and directing the Department of Health to seek an amendment to the state's Primary Care Network waiver granted by the federal government (1Sub. H.B. 304, 2005 General Session).

Rep. Kory M. Holdaway reviewed the intent behind the legislation.

Ms. Judi Hilman, Research Director, Utah Issues, gave a slide presentation and distributed a copy of, "Covered at Work - Getting it to Work." She presented an overview on the Covered-At-Work Program and responded to committee questions.

Mr. Michael Hales, Assistant Director, Division of Health Care Financing, responded to questions from

the Committee and discussed the issue of increasing the premium subsidies for the Covered-At-Work Program.

Ms. Sheila Walsh McDonald, Health Care Advocate, Salt Lake Community Action Program, explained that Utah is the 14th highest in the nation in uninsured workers and noted that the governor is looking at this proposal as a potential solution to the problem.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

Ms. Tani Pack Downing, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services, distributed a handout, "Organizational Structure March 2005." She presented an overview on the responsibilities of the Department of Workforce Services and reviewed the organizational changes. She indicated that Mr. John Nixon is now serving as Deputy Director and Mr. Chris Love as Operations Deputy in the department.

Mr. Mike Richardson, Director, Inter-Governmental Relations, Department of Workforce Services, briefed the Committee on the current status of the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) fund reauthorization.

MOTION: Sen. Hickman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.