

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jennifer Wagner, Legislative Division of Post Audit
Laurel Murdie, Legislative Division of Post Audit
Joe Lawhon, Legislative Division of Post Audit

Others attending: See attached list

Legislative Post Audit Briefing

Jennifer Wagner, Legislative Division of Post Audit, briefed the Committee on the performance audit report on verifying information provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services on its compliance with the terms of the foster care lawsuit settlement agreement. Ms. Wagner provided a background history of the lawsuit which was filed in 1990 charging that SRS was not adequately caring for children placed in its care or at-risk of abuse or neglect. It was estimated that the audit would be concluded in 18 months at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million per year. Copies of the performance audit report can be obtained by contacting the Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Laurel Murdie, Legislative Division of Post Audit, briefed the Committee on the performance audit report of examining issues related to Community Developmental Disability Organizations, Part I: Assessing the Effectiveness and Availability of Services. Conclusions and recommendations relating to the following questions were answered in the report: (1) Are developmentally disabled clients receiving the services they request and for which they are eligible; (2) What factors limit the availability of services for disabled individuals or their families served by CDDOs; and (3) Are developmentally disabled clients making progress at meeting their goals? Copies of the performance audit report can be obtained by contacting the Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Joe Lawhon, Legislative Division of Post Audit, briefed the Committee on the performance audit report of examining issues related to Community Developmental Disability Organizations, Part II: Reviewing Implementations and Funding Issues. Conclusions and recommendations relating to the following questions were answered in the report: (1) Are CDDOs that provide community services effectively managing the conflict of interest that exists when it comes to directing clients for services and negotiating contracts; (2) Were the rate recommendations made to the Legislature as a result of the first biennial rate study based on reasonable information and methodologies; and (3) Is the current system for funding the state's Developmental Disability Program fair and equitable? Copies of the performance audit report can be obtained by contacting the Legislative Division of Post Audit.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2000.