

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
March 4, 2005
2nd Floor Courtroom, Borah Office Building
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Senator Shawn Keough called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. Attending the meeting were Senators John Andreason and Kate Kelly, and Representatives Margaret Henbest and Donna Boe. Senator Bert Marley was excused, and Representatives Maxine Bell and Debbie Field joined the meeting shortly after it started. Also present were staff members Rakesh Mohan, Director, and Margaret Campbell, Administrative Coordinator, and all other OPE staff.

Co-chair Keough welcomed those in attendance, and acknowledged Senator John Goedde. Also in the audience were Richard Burns and Cathy Holland-Smith, Budget and Policy Analysis, Megan Ronk, Office of the Governor, David Hahn and Sara Nye, Division of Financial Management, Patrick Hodges, Office of the State Controller, Thomas Beauclair, Department of Correction, and Olivia Craven, Commission of Pardons and Parole.

TOPIC SELECTION

Co-chair Keough called on Mr. Mohan to introduce topic requests. Regarding the current workload, Mr. Mohan said there were eight follow-up reports for staff to address within the next year. The Oversight Committee had received four new topic requests for consideration.

Lessons Learned from ISIMS (Idaho Student Information System). A successful study would depend on the amount of information available and the cooperation of a private sector foundation. Information to begin the study could be available by Fall 2005.

Cost of Education at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. A study would require a large number of staff hours to interview stakeholders.

Cost of Substance Abuse to the State of Idaho. A study to compile information about the costs incurred by state agencies due to substance abuse.

Management Review of the Department of Health and Welfare. A large study that would need to be further scoped and possibly divided into multiple projects.

Co-chair Keough asked whether the office had resources to undertake all four projects, particularly if the management review was divided into smaller pieces. Mr. Mohan said OPE could develop a proposed scope for the management review by early Fall and release reports on ISIMS and the School for the Deaf and Blind during the next session.

Mr. Mohan said the nature of the substance abuse request was different from other requests. It was a limited scope evaluation to compile available information about the costs of substance abuse to the state. Committee members expressed their interest in an evaluation of substance abuse programs.

Representative Henbest said the State Board of Education was conducting an investigation of the viability of continuing the ISIMS project. Co-chair Keough called on Paul Headlee, Senior Performance Evaluator, to answer whether an evaluation would be duplicative of the board's efforts. Mr. Headlee said the information the board was gathering would be beneficial to an OPE analysis of the ISIMS project, and the evaluation could also address the technology oversight role of the state.

Representative Henbest moved to conduct an evaluation of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind as first priority; scope a management review of the Department of Health and Welfare as second priority; conduct an evaluation of substance abuse information as it relates to services offered, costs, and clientele, as third priority; and conduct an evaluation of ISIMS to the degree it complements information gathered by the State Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Senator Andreason.

In discussion, Senator Andreason said if legislators realized how critical the substance abuse issue was, it would be top priority. Representative Field said she supported an evaluation of substance abuse. She said the state had received an Access to Recovery (ATR) grant of \$22.5 million, and hoped the money would be allocated to substance abuse programs. Representative Boe asked whether the priority of topics in the motion would assure timely completion of the substance abuse evaluation. Mr. Mohan said he could possibly have a substance abuse report released during the next session.

The motion for four new evaluations passed unanimously by voice vote.

REPORT RELEASE: *MANAGEMENT OF CORRECTIONAL DATA*

Senator Andreason moved to receive the follow-up report on management of correctional data. Representative Boe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Mohan said this was the third follow-up report on management of correctional data. He said OPE had received full cooperation from the department and the commission, and had received input from the Division of Financial Management and Budget and Policy Analysis.

AJ Burns and Chris Shoop, Senior Performance Evaluators, presented a summary of the agencies' efforts and said the department and the commission had taken steps to address each of the recommendations in the 2001 report. The follow-up report also found data was available to conduct studies on parole timeliness and recidivism.

Co-chair Keough called on Thomas Beauclair, Director, Department of Correction, and Olivia Craven, Executive Director, Commission of Pardons and Parole, to respond to committee questions. The agency heads said the primary reason for delayed parole release was a lack of beds in facilities that offer treatment programs, and funding for treatment to meet the needs of those offenders trying to qualify for parole.

Representative Henbest moved to close follow-up work on the management of correctional data. Representative Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee members requested that OPE forward the follow-up report to the Criminal Justice Commission.

By unanimous consent, Representative Henbest moved to change the priority of the substance abuse evaluation and release a report to the Oversight Committee as soon as possible; and if possible, release reports on the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind and the Department of Health and Welfare at the beginning of the 2006 legislative session.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Mohan said he met with Randy Tilley, Division of Financial Management, and representatives of the Idaho State Police, Idaho Transportation Department, Department of Health and Welfare, to clarify issues and make minor changes to the Oversight Committee's legislation on strategic planning and performance measurement. Jeff Youtz and Eric Milstead, Budget and Policy Analysis, also participated in the meeting. Representative Henbest would introduce a new RS the following week.

Mr. Mohan thanked the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee for supporting OPE work and approving a maintenance level budget request, including one-time capital outlay funds for equipment replacement.

MINUTES

Representative Henbest moved to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2005, meeting. Representative Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.