

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee*
March 22, 2000
House Committee Room 406
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Representative Field called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Committee members Co-chair Senator Marguerite McLaughlin and Senator Lin Whitworth, and Representatives June Judd and Margaret Henbest were in attendance, and were joined by Senator Grant Ipsen midway through the meeting. Staff members Nancy Van Maren, Leslie Clement, and Margaret Campbell also were present.

Co-chair Field opened the meeting by reminding the committee that the minutes from the 3/1/00 meeting had been circulated to members and approved by signature of a majority.

CONSIDERATION OF JFAC REQUEST FOR EVALUATION OF MEDICAID

Co-chair Field said the meeting had been called to consider JFAC's request for an evaluation of Medicaid. She asked Ms. Nancy Van Maren to brief the committee on the request. Ms. Van Maren said that on March 21, JFAC requested the Office of Performance Evaluations to oversee an evaluation of Medicaid by an outside contractor, and appropriated \$600,000 for the study in fiscal year 2001 funds, with an emergency clause to allow work to start immediately.

JFAC members had not determined a scope. Discussion about the possible scope included: cost savings, "from top to bottom," administrative costs, veterans' concerns, and "nothing too proscribed" so that contract evaluators could find those areas that needed the most improvement. OPE staff would work on developing the project scope and an RFP that laid out that scope, and would then oversee the contract. She estimated that it could require 1.25 of OPE's FTEs to scope the study and oversee the contract, in part because JLOC's enabling statute and committee rules established a process to follow even when an evaluation was contracted out. She acknowledged that staffing requirements could be less once the contract was in monitoring phase.

Co-chair Field said it was important to note that OPE would work with others that had Medicaid evaluation experience in determining a scope. After the scope was developed, a meeting would be called so JLOC could consider the proposed scope and provide input and final sign-off authority.

Co-chair Field asked about how this assignment would impact others underway. Ms. Van Maren said the follow-up evaluation of the management of state agency passenger vehicles could possibly be delayed while staff developed the scope and RFP for the Medicaid evaluation, at which point it would be clearer what resources were needed, and timelines could be developed. Senator McLaughlin asked whether it was necessary to devote the estimated 1.25 FTEs to the Medicaid evaluation, given JFAC's expectation that it would be contracted out. Ms. Van Maren said she could not say exactly how much staff time would be needed to monitor the contract. Resources to do this and finish ongoing evaluations could be adequate after two additional staff were hired in July.

(Senator Ipsen joined the meeting in progress.)

* As approved by a majority of members, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (persignatures attached).

Co-chair Field asked for motions on the evaluation request and ongoing evaluations.

Representative Henbest moved to approve the request for a Medicaid evaluation and Senator Whitworth seconded the motion.

In discussion, Senator Whitworth said he understood the concern that 1.25 FTEs may be more than needed to monitor the Medicaid evaluation contract after the scope was approved, but that he was confident Ms. Van Maren would put staff back on other projects if they were not needed on the Medicaid evaluation. Committee members concurred. Committee members also specified they did not want to postpone the follow-up evaluation of state passenger vehicles indefinitely. Senator McLaughlin stated that she had spoken with Senator Parry, who wanted her to relay to the committee that he definitely wanted the Medicaid evaluation to move forward.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Representative Henbest moved to table the follow-up evaluation of the management of state agency passenger vehicles until the scope of the Medicaid evaluation was approved at the next JLOC meeting, at which time the committee would re-evaluate the timeline for the passenger vehicles follow-up. Senator Whitworth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Co-chair Field adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m., saying JLOC was adjourned until the Spring meeting, tentatively scheduled for May.